

Wild

Membership magazine

Autumn 2024

Leicestershire and Rutland

Fabulous fungi

Discover the weird and
wonderful world of fungi



A VISION OF WILDER ISLES

How rewilding can help tackle
the nature and climate crises

RINGING THE CHANGES

Why we ring birds and
what this tells us



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

Welcome

Colour your world this autumn



Autumn is a magical time of year – a season of change and an opportunity for nature to catch its breath. The warm colours of our woodlands and hedgerows inspire us to get outside and admire the show. It's a truly special moment to be out and about enjoying the best of our local wildlife. If you're unsure where to go, may I thoroughly recommend Charnwood Lodge, with its far-reaching views, diverse wildlife and remarkable prehistory. You can plan your visit from page 20.

This is also the perfect time to look for fungi, especially among the leaf litter, on tree trunks or around fallen trees. We have included a guide to some of the weird and wonderful fungi you can find locally (see page 22) to help you discover these fascinating and sometimes otherworldly organisms.

General Election fever is behind us and as our new MPs settle into their roles, I can assure we will be reaching out to them to emphasise the importance of protecting and restoring our wildlife and looking after our local environment. To help with this we recently ran our Big LRWT Supporter Survey, which I hope you were able to participate in (see page 12). The results will help us to understand what is most important to you and ensure that our work reflects what our supporters value.

Finally, I'm thrilled to share the news of our new James Adler Reserve. The land for what will become our latest nature reserve was generously gifted to the Trust by Michael and Mary Adler as a beautiful legacy to their son James. Located near Market Harborough, this precious site is a wonderful addition to our suite of sites protecting nature. You can read about it on page 14.

Whatever you do this autumn, I hope you enjoy the views and wildlife at this inspiring time of year. As L.M. Montgomery put it in *Anne of Green Gables*: "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

Mat Carter

CEO

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Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust *Get in touch*



WILD Leicestershire and Rutland is the membership magazine for **Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust** and is free to members.

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Protecting and enhancing the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland and engaging people with nature.

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

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VAUGHN MATTHEWS



MARK HAMBLIN/2020DIVISION



ANDY MORFEW

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Wildlife Watch Involve the younger members of your family in our family-focussed activities and events.
lrwt.org.uk/families

Local groups Join one of our friendly local groups and make a difference for wildlife near you.
lrwt.org.uk/local-groups

Campaign Play an essential role in raising awareness and lobbying on local and national issues.
lrwt.org.uk/campaign

Donate Help us protect the wild spaces of Leicestershire and Rutland by donating to our appeals.
lrwt.org.uk/appeals

Volunteer Could you offer your skills and time to help look after local wildlife? We would love to hear from you.
lrwt.org.uk/volunteer

Businesses Join as a corporate supporter of LRWT and put wildlife at the centre of your business.
lrwt.org.uk/corporate

WILD NEWS

All the latest local and national news from The Wildlife Trusts



TERRY WHITTAKER/2020VISION

Election fever

Throughout the build-up to the General Election we campaigned tirelessly for our five election priorities, asking that the next Government set policies targeted towards species recovery, addressing river pollution and water scarcity, funding wildlife-friendly farming, enabling healthy communities, and tackling climate change. We now look forward to working with our new MPs to put nature in recovery and address the issues facing wildlife and the climate.

LRWT, along with other Wildlife Trusts, joined other big environmental organisations in June's Restore Nature Now march in London (pictured). This mass gathering demonstrated clear public support for action in advance of the election.

Thanks to everyone who helped us vote for nature. With the new parliamentary session underway, we now call on the Government to move quickly towards delivering real action. Rest assured we will continue to lobby hard for the appropriate funding and policies to put nature's recovery firmly on the agenda, delivering a green recovery that's good for nature, people and climate.



Our five priorities

1 Bring back lost wildlife

We continue to develop and deliver significant landscape-scale nature recovery schemes, such as our Soar & Wreake and Charnwood Living Landscapes projects. These projects benefit threatened species, including water voles, hazel dormice, bitterns and swifts. But there is more work to be done.

2 End river pollution and water scarcity

Work to improve local rivers such as the Saffron and Wash Brooks and the River Soar continues, but additional national legislation could transform our rivers for good.

3 Fund wildlife-friendly farming

We support farming groups across the counties, including through our long-standing partnership with Jordans Cereals, which helps the farmers who grow oats for Jordans to farm in harmony with nature. Even more could be achieved with greater financial input from Government.

4 Enable healthy communities

We are engaging local communities through our #TeamWilder project and our broad range of educational programmes. Everyone has the right to access nature, but we can't ensure this alone.

5 Tackle the climate emergency

Our projects to restore and create carbon-capturing habitats, reintroduce wildlife, and safeguard nature reserves are all examples of how we are working to tackle the nature and climate crises. Joined-up efforts are the only way to ensure our success for the whole country.

Our awesome ospreys

Rutland Water Nature Reserve welcomed this season's first osprey chick amid the spectacular aurora displays over the skies at Manton Bay. The first egg arrived over the Easter weekend by Maya and breeding partner 33(11) who have been together as a pair for 10 seasons, joined soon after by two further eggs.

This year marks another milestone for the Rutland Osprey Project, which last year celebrated the 250th successfully fledged osprey chick. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust initiated the osprey reintroduction program back in 1996 and now has a self-sustaining breeding



population with some of the ospreys breeding in other parts of the UK and internationally.

Maya is the only named female osprey at Rutland Water and has been returning for the last 15 years. She was recently identified as the most successful breeding female osprey, with 38 chicks to date.

Where there's a Will

Remember a Charity Week runs from 9-15 September and is an opportunity to take a moment to consider leaving a gift to charity in your Will, after looking after family and friends. Leaving a gift to Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, no matter how big or small, can have a tremendous impact on our work.

We believe our counties should be rich in wildlife for the benefit of everyone. Gifts in Wills enable us to restore more wild places, help nature recover and ensure future generations will be able to enjoy nature too. It is a legacy that will touch the lives of so many long after you're gone.

The Trust has teamed up with Octopus Legacy to offer our supporters the chance to write a Will for free (usual price £90). In return, all we ask is that you consider leaving the Trust a gift in your Will, though there is no obligation to do so. For more information, visit lrwt.org.uk/legacy or to get in touch to talk to someone in confidence about leaving a gift in your Will please email us at info@lrwt.org.uk

REMEMBER US IN
YOUR WILL
Help our work live on...

Womble-thon

Congratulations and a very big 'thank you' to Sam Laywood for raising more than £2,000 for LRWT on his recent Womble-thon!

Every year across Britain there are three million reports of wildlife injuries arising from litter. Sam is on a mission to clean up Leicestershire while helping wildlife.

The co-founding member of the North Leicestershire Litter Wombles group walked just over a marathon – 26.7 miles – all while collecting litter along the route from his home in Belton, near Loughborough to Broughton Astley, near Lutterworth. Sam was joined by members of the Trust during his 16-hour walk, collecting 34 bags of litter, or almost two bags per mile as he worked his way from north to south.

Volunteers with the Leicestershire Litter Wombles have collected more than 150,000 bags of rubbish across the county since 2020, saving potentially thousands of animals from harm.

Sam was shocked by how much rubbish he collected during the challenge: "My aim was to collect a bag of litter for every mile but I filled 10 before I reached six, and I had barely dented the surface."

Sam hopes to persuade people to consider wildlife and stop littering.

Litter Wombles have collected more than **150,000** bags of rubbish since 2020



LRWT staff join Sam Laywood on his litter-picking mission.



LRWT NEWS

News from #teamWILDER

How we've been inspired by our members, volunteers and supporters.

In the Winter/Spring issue of *Wild* we introduced our project with the Belgrave Neighbourhood Cooperative Housing Association (BNCHA) and invited you to join us in the garden there as we shaped it around the wants and needs of the community. So we were delighted when local business WildWater Ponds reached out to see how they could help.

Director Harry set up his small business with wildlife very much at its heart. Using 'enviro-friendly systems, the power of plants and proper maintenance techniques', their efforts result in beautiful landscape designs that support a healthy ecosystem.

Not content with just supporting wildlife, Harry and his team are constantly seeking ways they can support their local community. In this instance they were keen to add a pond to our garden at BNCHA for all the wildlife benefits it would bring, and to offer a beautiful area of contemplation while watching the birds come and go. After initial discussions we soon forged a plan and in a *Ground Force*-style day of frenzied activity WildWater Ponds transformed the garden into a place of tranquil beauty and inspiration with the help of LRWT volunteers and tenant members.

WildWater Ponds dug out the pond, installed a fence for safety, landscaped the area with beautiful logs and planting,



Job done! Admiring the finished pond and planting.

created a dead hedge, a hibernaculum, and built a bug bench to sit and enjoy the space – not to mention all the odd jobs they did whilst they were there! What was achieved in a single day just goes to show the power of community. It was very much all-hands-on-deck, and what an incredible transformation!

As part of the services they offer, WildWater Ponds maintain their pond installations, building relationships with their customers. This project is no different and they will be back to ensure everything is healthy and to support as necessary.

We would like to thank Harry and his team for donating their time, energy and all the materials, as well as their customers across Leicestershire who generously donated all of the plants for the pond and surround.

To say that the chair of BNCHA was

overjoyed is an understatement. The tenants love it, visitors love it and, most importantly, the wildlife is starting to notice it. We have started to see more birds flit in and out of the garden – a sign of more wonderful things to come. May this new relationship continue to add benefit to people and wildlife across Leicester.



The team busy at work.

Join our volunteer work party in the garden at Loughborough Road, Leicester every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm. It would be great to see you too! Contact Fee Worton by email at fworton@lrwt.org.uk



Like and follow WildWater Ponds on social media @wildwaterponds or discover more about their work at wildwaterponds.co.uk



From left: Nature-inspired T-shirt designs; Searching for butterfly eggs on a library fun day; Hard at work at Belgrave Neighbourhood Cooperative Housing Association.

Nextdoor Nature inspires

Our Nextdoor Nature project used a community organising approach to connect more people with the nature all around them. **Fee Worton** looks back at an incredible 17 months.

Through the Nextdoor Nature project we have invited more people into conversations around nature's recovery and been led by the interests and motivations of the people of Leicester to make more space for nature where we live and work.

Wide-ranging activities arising from the project included urban botany walks, art exhibitions, wildlife photography sessions and tending gardens. We have fostered new connections between



people, upskilled communities, developed community confidence and pushed for action to support new ideas.

The project saw us work closely with colleagues at Leicester City Council, The Conservation Volunteers and local police.

The Trust partnered with Leicester College and the Insecta Collective, while welcoming the support of local businesses like WildWater Ponds and Co-op Member Pioneers.

As the project ends, we would like to thank the National Lottery Heritage Fund for kickstarting this work. It has been a fantastic opportunity and a great success! We are now seeking further funding to continue this work, widening our influence across local communities to benefit both people and nature.



Left: Making a pledge for nature. Above: Inside the Our Earth Exhibition at Highcross Shopping Centre.

Nextdoor Nature

If you would like to find out more please contact Fee Worton, Nextdoor Nature Community Organiser at fworton@lrwt.org.uk



UK NEWS

UK UPDATE

Pyramidal orchid on a brownfield site being cleared for development.

Biodiversity Net Gain falls short

A new era beckons as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – a requirement on developers to ensure wildlife habitat is left in a better state than it was before the building project began – has become mandatory for all major and minor developments in England. The Wildlife Trusts have actively contributed to the evolution of this legislation for many years, recognising that development is often necessary, but does not have to be achieved in a way that harms nature.

This legislation has the potential to transform our planning systems whereby developers deliver more for nature – contributing to its recovery – rather than accelerating its decline. This is vital if we are to meet our international obligations to restore 30 per cent of land and sea for nature by 2030.

Biodiversity Net Gain could not only make a positive contribution towards nature's recovery but also help address the climate emergency in the process. However, The Wildlife Trusts are concerned that Biodiversity Net Gain is not currently on track to address the severity of the continuing nature crisis. We believe that the UK Government needs to set more ambitious targets.

Rachel Hackett, planning and development manager at The Wildlife Trusts, says: "It's extremely disappointing to see that some of the rules and guidelines for Biodiversity Net Gain fall short of their intended ambition. Given the uncertainties surrounding habitat creation, a gain of 10% will at best hold the tide against nature loss to development and provide a contingency to ensure no overall loss of biodiversity. But if we want to secure real recovery for nature, we need to see at least 20% gain."


We will continue to call for regulations and guidance to be more effective and strive for a gold standard for Biodiversity Net Gain. After all, there is a nature crisis in the UK – one in six species are at risk of extinction and the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. We propose developers and local authorities go beyond the minimum requirements and aim for at least a 20% gain for nature.

We'd like to see the UK Government changing policy and guidance so the sale of excess biodiversity units is prevented. We'd like no further broadening of permitted development rules and Government to provide policy guidance to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain for

permitted development is made a matter for local consideration rather than a blanket exemption.

Local Planning Authorities also need to be resourced with the right level of skills and capacity across departments to oversee the Biodiversity Net Gain process to ensure it is properly implemented, monitored and enforced. Finally, Biodiversity Net Gain must be 'additional' to existing mechanisms for nature conservation and enhancement.

When it comes to protecting, restoring and managing the natural environment, The Wildlife Trusts up and down the country have unmatched experience, knowledge and expertise. Nature conservation is our primary charitable objective. So, for decades we have delivered high-quality Biodiversity Net Gain habitat and offered specialist advice and consultancy to developers, local planning authorities, partners and communities. All our funding is invested with the purpose of delivering gains for nature.

For more information visit
 [wildlifetrusts.org/
biodiversity-net-gain](https://wildlifetrusts.org/biodiversity-net-gain)

UK UPDATE

The Great Big Nature Survey

Last year The Wildlife Trusts launched The Great Big Nature Survey, calling on the UK public to share their views on some of the most important issues affecting people and wildlife. We asked questions like: How often do you get out into nature? Should people try to control nature to better protect it? How important are green spaces to you? And what roles should people, business, and government have in looking after nature?

The Great Big Nature Survey helps to identify what people in the UK and islands really think about wildlife and how we, as a society, should protect it. The results also support The Wildlife Trusts when holding the UK governments to account over their environmental policies and priorities.



Whatever your views on nature, however important (or not) it is to you, join more than 21,000 people that have already taken part and make your voice heard by taking The Great Big Nature survey today. If you've taken the survey before, thank you! Do please take it again, so that we can track how people's views on these important issues have changed over time.

Have your say at wildlifetrusts.org/great-big-nature-survey

Making Friends With Molluscs

The Wildlife Trusts have joined forces with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) to publish a new Wild About Gardens guide, *Making Friends with Molluscs*. The guide reveals the fascinating world of slugs and snails and challenges common myths about these creatures. For example, did you know that the majority of the 150 slug and snail species in the UK can actually positively contribute to your garden ecosystem?

One of their most significant roles is as nature's clean-up crew; molluscs feed on rotting plants, fungi, dung and even

carrion, helping to recycle nitrogen and other nutrients and minerals back into the soil. They can also clean algae off the glass of greenhouses, leaving behind their trademark trails.

Many of our much-loved garden visitors, including frogs, song thrushes and ground beetles, rely on slugs and snails as a key food source. By supporting these molluscs, gardeners indirectly support a diverse array of wildlife too.

For more information visit wildaboutgardens.org.uk



Tell us what you think!

We'd love to get your feedback on your membership magazine. Can you help us by taking part in a short survey to share your views?

You'll find it at wildlifetrusts.org/magazine-survey

UK HIGHLIGHTS

Discover how The Wildlife Trusts are helping wildlife across the UK

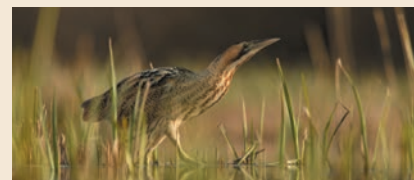


1 Strawberry Hill forever

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants is a step closer to securing ownership of the uniquely special Strawberry Hill, thanks to generous funding from Biffa Award. Securing the future of a Bedfordshire farm that has been left to rewild for 25 years represents one of the most exciting land transactions in the Wildlife Trust's history. wtru.st/BCN-Strawberry-Hill

2 Booming success

Prompted by the near-extinction of a member of the heron family, a long-term conservation project by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and conservation partners has doubled the area of bittern-suitable reedbed habitat. With a breakthrough this year, the first male bittern in recent history was recorded 'booming,' making its mating call on Amwell Nature Reserve. wtru.st/Herts-bittern



3 Sula rules the waves

Alderney Wildlife Trust has recorded its seabird life in more detail than any other island, all thanks to Sula, the wildlife survey boat. Now, Sula needs sponsorship to support her important role in advancing conservation. Her next voyage is to help monitor the island's grey seals, protect guillemot colonies and map Alderney's tidal flow and marine habitats. wtru.st/Sula-Sponsorship



Your wild autumn

The best of the season's wildlife and where to enjoy it on your local patch

AUTUMN SPECTACLE

Hello deer!

These elegant and shy animals live in woodland where they graze on leaves and tree bark. They often feed in arable fields and pasture, usually close to woodland where they quickly retreat if startled. Having mated in summer, the males shed their antlers in October ready to grow a new set.

To spot a roe deer, move slowly and quietly, using binoculars to scan the undergrowth and spot its rusty red coat and three-pronged antlers, or its white rump as it leaps away. Listen for the high-pitched piping call of the does (females) attracting the bucks (males). The bucks respond with a rasping noise and will chase the does until they are ready to mate. Maintain your distance and always keep dogs on leads.

SEE THEM THIS AUTUMN

- **Charnwood Lodge** Spot the dainty two-slot tracks of deer on a visit (see page 20 for our guided walk).
- **Cossington Meadows** Visit early morning or late afternoon for a chance to see roe deer grazing on the meadows.

Roe deer are a true native species. Signs of their presence include small cylindrical droppings, strands of red hair caught on fences, and frayed bark where they have grazed.

With your support...

Thank you for helping us look after woodland nature reserves, essential for butterflies, birds, badgers, and roe deer.

Nurture nature

We can do so much to help wildlife, starting in our gardens.

Autumn's arrival signals a new opportunity to help visiting wildlife. Clean out nest boxes or put up new ones to give birds somewhere cosy to roost as night-time temperatures start to cool off. This is also a good time to begin feeding birds again if you stopped for the summer to help them put on fat for winter.

Standing seedheads are another great food source for birds and will provide snug spaces for many insects to sit out the cold from later in the autumn. The return of generally wetter weather is also a great time to plant many wildlife-friendly shrubs and perennials, as well as bulbs, which should be in-ground before the end of October.

Frogs and toads have spent most of the summer hidden among garden undergrowth, but they love a refreshing bath in a plant saucer filled with cooling water. If you haven't



GILLIAN DAY

Nectar points

Keep your garden blooming well into autumn with late-season, nectar-rich flowers for butterflies, including hyssop, ice plant, sweet scabious and Michaelmas daisy (pictured).

got a pond, this is a great time to dig one as the ground should be workable following the warmer months.


Trees and shrubs start shedding leaves after a dry summer and as autumn approaches. Let the leaves lie where they fall for wildlife such as ladybirds, beetles, earthworms, and woodlice.

SIMPLE STEPS

■ **Water works** Position water near shrubs or trees so birds feel they can retreat to safety. Clean and refill regularly.

■ **Worm their way in** Look after the wiggly wonders of your wildlife garden. Keep soil covered and start a compost heap.

■ **Pile it up** Leave rock and log piles as shelter for overwintering frogs and toads and as a cool retreat on warmer days.

 Looking for inspiration? Take action for wildlife in your garden and beyond: lrwt.org.uk/wildlife-gardening

Late flyers

Many butterflies continue late into the season, visiting nectar-rich flowers like buddleia and ivy, a vital late source of food for many pollinators.



Red admiral

This butterfly builds its fat reserves from the nectar it feeds on, ready to lie in a state of torpor till spring.

Holly blue

The late broods overwinter in evergreen shrubs and will be the first butterflies you see next spring.



RACHEL SCOPES

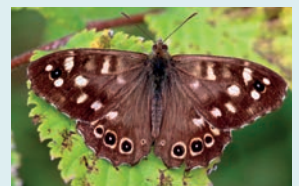
Whites

Large, small, and green-veined whites are still breeding but must soon lay their eggs so the pupae can survive the winter.



Speckled wood

Leave patches of long grass for these butterflies. Their caterpillars feed on common grasses such as cock's-foot.



Prickly characters

Make piles of leaves with old branches and wood, creating instant hibernacula for the gardeners' best friend. Hedgehogs need water to rehydrate on warm evenings, and if they like your garden, they may burrow into a leaf and log pile to check it out for winter hibernation. Make a hole in your fence to give hedgehogs a wider range for their nightly rambles.



PLANT THIS

Plant fruiting trees and shrubs such as rowan, hawthorn, elder and dog rose to feed pollinators in spring, and birds from autumn into winter.



ED MARSHALL

DO THIS

Explore the wood-wide-web of amazing fungi this autumn – see page 22. Take photos and leave the fungi for wildlife!



We hear you

Our recent supporter survey offered an opportunity to have your say on local wildlife, how much you feel involved in our work, and what matters most to you when it comes to nature in your area. Here's what you told us.



Thank you to everyone who completed our recent supporter survey. We had a really fantastic response, with more than 350 of you taking the time to let us know how you feel about nature and the work of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Nature matters

Nature is essential to you, with more than 96% of respondents saying that having access to local nature and green spaces is extremely important. Just over two-thirds of you enjoy the opportunity to spend time in nature or green spaces several times a week or more.

More than half of respondents feel it is extremely easy to access nature locally, though the remainder feel less so. Reasons behind perceived poor access include a lack of transport or parking, mobility issues, family or work commitments, and new developments taking up more green spaces. People feel the Trust may be able to help with this in several ways, for example by supporting

the creation of wild spaces within public greenspace, working with other organisations such as local authorities to improve access to nature, or by offering events and activities for families.

We are striving to expand everyone's access to quality, wild spaces. The acquisition of our new James Adler Reserve (see page 14) will improve our presence in the South of Leicestershire, and we are working with Leicestershire County Council to ensure the best possible outcome on the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy for our area. Following the recent election, we will be encouraging our new MPs to do more for local nature (as outlined on page 4).

Acting on your feedback, we are also looking to expand our events programme, with more members-only events, as well as family-focussed activities to inspire the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts. Turn to page 34 for a sample of what's on over the coming months, or head to our events webpage for up-to-date or newly added dates: lrwt.org.uk/events

Helping nature

The state of nature really matters to you, with 61% of respondents saying not enough is being done locally for wildlife and nature. Loss of biodiversity is of particular concern, and you would like to see new building developments take biodiversity into account and more action generally to help nature recover.

We are listening. We already comment on many planning applications and are looking to be more transparent about what we comment on and what we say. It is with this in mind that we are putting together a new page on our website to

Wildlife gardening is a popular way to help nature on the doorstep.



MARC HAMBLIN/2020VISION



regularly visit
nature reserves



52% feel
it is extremely
easy to access
nature locally

73%

respondents receive
a paper copy of *Wild*
magazine while
11% receive
it digitally



4.31

membership
satisfaction
(score out of five)

share this information, which should go live within the next few weeks. We will keep you informed about when it is ready.

Many of you are already taking action for nature, with the most popular actions including making space for wildlife in gardens. We will continue to share ways you can help local wildlife and be part of the change that is so desperately needed, for example through our Team Wilder initiative which you can read more about at lrwt.org.uk/team-wilder

Litter and plastic pollution are seen as big issues locally, which is why we are developing relationships with problem solvers like Chris Desai to tackle this issue. You can read more about the incredible work of Chris and his team from page 28.

Get involved

Survey respondents mentioned they would like to feel better informed about opportunities to get involved. We would encourage members to sign up for our regular email newsletter, which often includes ideas for taking a more active role in nature's recovery, as well as details of volunteering vacancies and ideas for helping wildlife in the garden.

The overwhelming majority of survey



Respondents wanted to hear more about volunteering opportunities.

responses received came from current and past members. We ran this survey to canvass your opinions and better understand how we can improve. We will fully digest your feedback over the coming months to ensure the Trust is working as effectively as it can for you and for local wildlife.

If you missed the chance to take part in the survey, please feel free to drop us an email with your thoughts – we would love to hear from you.



Got more to say? Please email us at info@lrwt.org.uk

How can we improve?

- ✓ Offer more details about volunteering opportunities
- ✓ Better publicise local events
- ✓ Improve availability of nature reserves in South Leicestershire

Top three actions for nature:

- 1 Making my own garden or local area more wildlife friendly
- 2 Supporting a campaign or signing a petition
- 3 Looking to make more sustainable or environmentally friendly choices

Top three reasons for becoming a member:

- "I have a real interest in nature and the environment."
- "I want to make a difference to nature in my local area."
- "I want to help protect nature for future generations."

Stay connected

Wild magazine is the most popular source of information on the Trust's work. While most members receive their copy through the post, an increasing number are opting to receive *Wild* digitally, which saves printing and postage costs. If you too would prefer to go digital, please get in touch to let us know. Email membership@lrwt.org.uk with your name, address, email and membership number.

- Sign up for our regularly emailed newsletters full of ideas, inspiration and ways to get involved. Opt in at info@lrwt.org.uk



New land for nature's recovery!

The James Adler Reserve will become our latest nature reserve, creating more opportunity for nature's recovery in South Leicestershire.

Central to speeding nature's recovery is the creation of more, bigger and better-connected wildlife habitat, both in the wider countryside and through the expansion of our own network of nature reserves. It is with this in mind that we are delighted to announce a gift of land to the Trust that will eventually become our newest nature reserve: the James Adler Reserve in the village of Great Bowden, near Market Harborough.



The mix of woods, scrub and grassland offers a fantastic starting point for enhancing the site's wildlife value.

This new land improves our presence in the South of Leicestershire and offers us a welcome opportunity to connect with the local community there. Over time we will transform the site into a truly special place, rich in wildlife that contributes to the total area of land protected for nature within our two counties.

Remembering James

The land has been generously gifted by Michael Adler as a beautiful legacy to James Adler, the second of his three sons, who sadly passed away at the age of 42. Mr Adler had intended to leave the land to his son, who joined him on several occasions to enjoy the wildlife found here, but after his unexpected death he decided to gift the land to Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

James was CEO of Ashdown Forest in East Sussex. He loved his job and looked after a large area with a variety of habitats including heathland. From his pre-school days James was fascinated by nature. After university he volunteered for Surrey Wildlife Trust and was then employed, first as an assistant ranger. He worked his way quickly through various jobs with the Trust to become Director of Land Management and later, Director of Biodiversity. He was also the National Land Management Adviser for The Wildlife Trusts.

"James was a natural alliance builder, who could communicate a vision and bring together people of the most diverse backgrounds and interests," explains Mr Adler. "He would have loved to have been responsible for the land at Great Bowden and it is most appropriate that the new reserve is to be named after him."

Over the coming years the new James Adler Reserve will continue its transformation from pasture into a



IAN DRUMMOND



The beautiful River Welland runs through the land.

and it is our aim to involve the local community in this process.

The River Welland flows through the lower sections of the reserve, offering possibilities to create additional wetland habitat alongside improvements to the river itself and its banks.

For example, shallow pools and areas of standing water would help to encourage more wildlife, including amphibians such as frogs and toads, and dragonflies, while at the same time contributing to local flood alleviation.

Another way to improve biodiversity is by planting trees. We hope to create new woodland on site to both speed nature's recovery and capture carbon. The upper areas of the reserve offer greatest potential for this woodland expansion.

Local knowledge is important, which is why we will be working with our Great Bowden Local Group to develop plans for the 20-hectare site that



Members of the Adler family hand over the land to LRWT.

straddles the A6. We will also be looking to encourage the local community to get involved as we continue the evolution of this land towards an even richer habitat for wildlife.

Our nature reserves have increasingly become the last strongholds of wildlife habitat within Leicestershire and Rutland, so this generously gifted land gives us the opportunity to take another step closer towards nature's recovery within South Leicestershire.

It will offer more space for people to join in and create relationships with nature at the heart of their community.

New pools will create opportunities for wildlife such as amphibians and dragon and damselflies.



ROSS HODDINOTT/2020/VISION

special place for nature, benefiting the lives of both people and wildlife.

Huge potential

There is enormous potential to create new wildlife habitat creation while improving biodiversity across the site, which already includes a mix of trees, scrub and grassland. Initially we will study the land to identify the best options available for the site. This will involve a series of botanical and river surveys to understand habitat condition and what species are already present,

“Our vision is to transform the site into a new wildlife-rich nature reserve, and we are inviting all the community to come together for its future within Leicestershire’s landscape.” Mat Carter, CEO



Chiffchaff with ring.

Birds are a key indicator of environmental health, and bird ringing is essential in helping us understand how populations are responding to modern environmental management, as Charnwood Forest Ringing Group member **Kate Moore** explains.

Picture an early morning in August, before dawn. There's a rustling in the reedbed. Some birds are waking, preparing for the day. Others, like blackcaps, are coming in to roost, already on their way south to Southern Europe and Africa, flying during the night to avoid predation. A team of bird ringers is also moving

quietly through the site, preparing for the morning. The data they collect today will help inform conservation efforts for the Trust.

Fine mist nets are used to safely catch the birds. Birds are carefully extracted from the nets then kept calm in soft cotton bags until they can be ringed, processed and released. One of the key regulations



Rings of varying sizes for different bird species.

DAVID WILSON CLARKE/THE NATIONAL FOREST



TOM MARSHALL

Measuring the wing length of a bluetit.

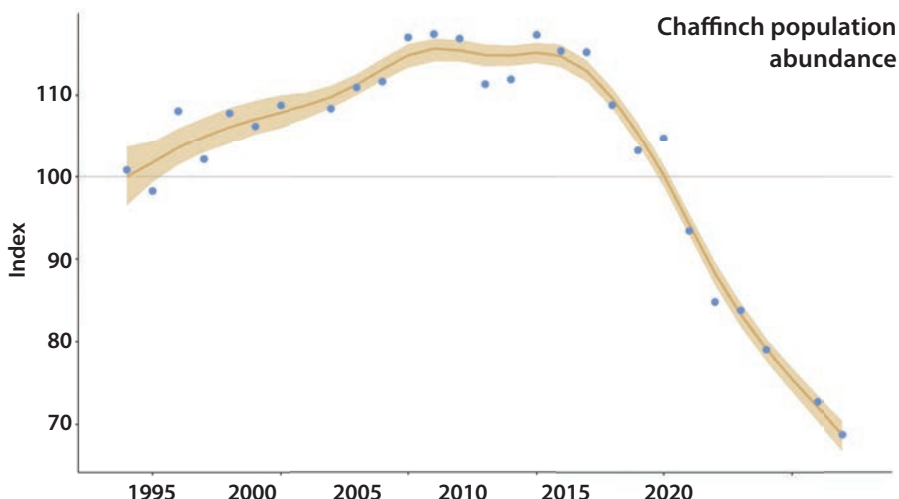
when handling birds is that the welfare of the bird is paramount.

Back at the ringing station, each bird is identified by species and fitted with the correct size of metal ring embossed with a unique identification code. If the bird is already fitted with a ring the number is recorded. Once in the hand there is a wealth of data about the bird that may be recorded, including its age, sex, weight, wing length and breeding condition. All bird ringing data is submitted to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) who administer the bird ringing scheme in the UK.

A bird in the hand

Understanding bird families and species and the changing plumage characteristics of birds throughout the year is essential and fascinating. The most ringed bird in the UK is the humble blue tit, although it is feisty in the hand and quick to nip with its sharp beak, giving it the name of Billy Biter to many ringers! It is a good species from which to learn about handling, as well as recording moult characteristics.

Most of our resident small bird species follow a similar moult strategy. After fledging, juvenile birds will go through



BTO.ORG CC-BY-NC

Chaffinch population trend. Sadly our data corroborates the national picture.



One chaffinch ringed in 2006 was recovered two years later more than **900** miles away in Poland.



A goldcrest ringed in Norway was recaptured six months later at Charnwood Lodge having flown **632** miles.



The blackbird longevity record for Charnwood Lodge is **eight years** and three months.

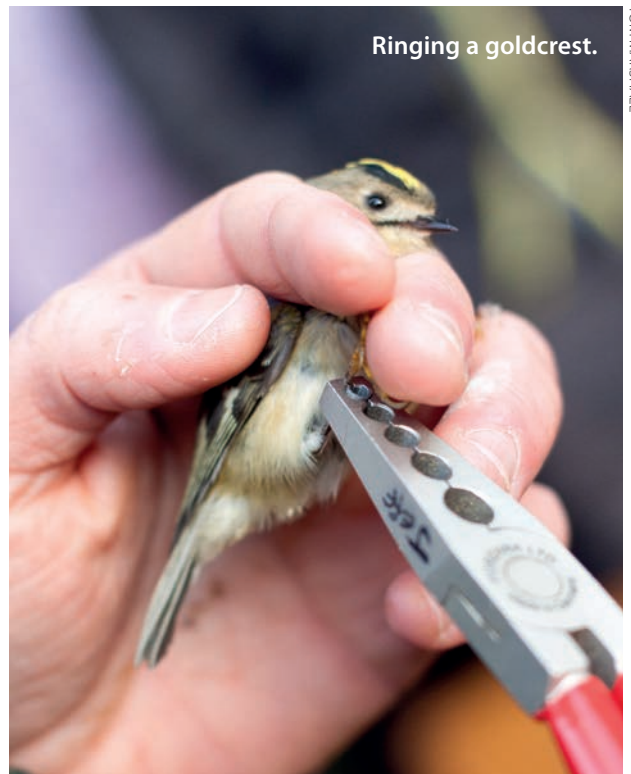
a partial post-juvenile moult, replacing all body feathers, some flight and covert feathers. Adult birds, on the other hand, will go through a complete post-breeding moult. Many first-year birds can therefore be aged until they breed for the first time in their second year.

Ringing in Charnwood Forest

The Charnwood Forest Ringing Group currently ring primarily at two of the Trust's nature reserves: Charnwood Lodge and Kelham Bridge.



Processing the wryneck captured at Kelham Bridge.



Ringing a goldcrest.

TOM MARSHALL

Ringing at Charnwood Lodge is mainly carried out in woodland habitat. It is a great winter ringing site where resident bird species are monitored, as well as winter migrants such as redwing and goldcrest. Data is submitted to the BTO Winter Ringing Scheme.

The trend of bird species in the UK are often reflected in the data we capture at a local level. It has been sad to see the decline in the abundance of chaffinches nationally. At Charnwood Lodge, where once there was a thriving roost, the chaffinch is now uncommon. However, marsh tits are regularly ringed

at Charnwood Lodge showing this bird is still very much present.

Kelham Bridge is a small wetland site that is particularly productive for our summer migrants: reed warblers, sedge warblers, blackcaps, willow warblers and chiffchaffs. A reed warbler, initially ringed at Stanford Reservoir in 2019, was recently recovered at Kelham Bridge having flown to Africa and back five times!

Ringing regularly takes place throughout the year, weather permitting. In the last year of ringing at Kelham Bridge eight individual Cetti's warblers (resident all year) were ringed, including

three juveniles. This shows an increase in the abundance of this species at the site and follows the national trend (a 187% increase from 2010 to 2020), as well as the success of the site for breeding.

Early to rise

Bird ringing feels like a real privilege to me. I love the early mornings in beautiful places trying to understand more about the birds I handle. Working with different species gives me an appreciation of the different visual and behavioural characteristics, and an admiration for the distances some of them fly. Knowing

Reporting ringed birds

Note the number: Anyone can contribute to data collected through the ringing scheme. If you find a dead bird with a ring or can fully read the numbers on the ring on a bird on your feeders or elsewhere then the sighting may be reported through the BTO website, [bto.org](https://www.bto.org)

Catch the colour: Also look out for any bird with a coloured ring or series of coloured rings on its legs.

Note down the colour of each ring, which leg it is on and the position of the ring. These birds are probably part of a specific research project.



Cetti's warbler in hand at Kelham Bridge.

Train to be a bird ringer

Bird ringers must go through an intensive training period, often taking two years or more, to gain their first independent conditional (C) ringing permit. After several years of further training and experience, ringers may be assessed for their A permit and eventually become a ringing trainer. There are now 3,000 ringers across the country who ring approximately one million birds a year.

that data is being used to provide vital information for conservation at a both a local and global scale is satisfying and rewarding.

However, it is the surprises that are both personally exciting, as well as providing valuable records for the nature reserve and the wider county. The capture of a wryneck this spring was a first for Kelham Bridge and a great record for the county. This unusual member of the woodpecker family once bred in the UK but is now only recorded in passage, and rarely in the spring. It has a unique behaviour of mimicking the writhing neck of a snake, normally used to ward off predators from its nest.

Ringling and monitoring of bird populations and their movements should help identify new trends in bird behaviour.



Male blackcap showing greater covert feathers of two different ages, indicating a first-year bird.

Turning to tech

New technology is also aiding our recording of bird movements. In Leicestershire and Rutland schemes such as satellite tagging of the ospreys at Rutland Water have provided valuable insights into the movements of these incredible birds, both on their nesting grounds and during migration. The recently installed Motus station at Rutland Water will also help with monitoring birds and bats, fitted with special radio frequency tags, as they fly past the reservoir. A project to monitor the migration of Nathusius' pipistrelle bats using Motus tags has already begun on the reserve.

The increased availability of thermal imagers is already highlighting feeding areas of wader species in stubble and pasture that may be used by farmers seeking grants for conservation activities. A jack snipe was captured on a thermal imager at Wanlip Meadows and subsequently ringed last winter, making it the first record of the species at the site.

Going forward, the ringing and monitoring of bird populations and their movement will highlight how well conservation initiatives are performing at our local sites. They should also help to identify new trends in bird behaviour that may be used to influence land management practices.



If you would like to find out more about bird ringing please visit bto.org/our-science/projects/bird-ringing-scheme or watch out for news of bird ringing demonstrations.



Rutland Water is an internationally important site for the black-headed gull.

Wetland birds at Rutland Water

Ringing is one way to monitor bird populations, with our bird-ringing group processing in the region of 5,500 birds every season.

Another way to keep track of any changes is to simply count the birds, which is what we do at Rutland Water Nature Reserve to contribute towards the national Wetland Bird Survey. Every year staff and volunteers at the reserve count the wide range of wetland birds there, from grebes to geese, egrets to the elusive water rail. Last year some 124,000 birds were counted across 66 different species.

Gulls are not counted through the monthly counts because they leave their roosts at dawn – long before our eagle-eyed counters are out and about! To account for this staff and volunteers now carry out a separate winter gull roost survey every January.

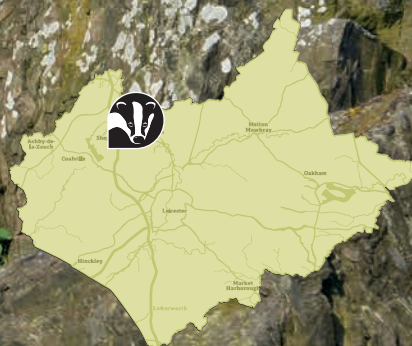
Most of the gulls are black-headed gulls, and the numbers in which they are recorded would make Rutland Water a site of international significance for this species. The site also hosts a nationally important population of roosting common gulls.

More than 5.5 million wetland birds have been counted through the Wetland Bird Surveys at Rutland Water since it began in 1975.



Be charmed by Charnwood Lodge

This expansive nature reserve – approaching 200 hectares in size – is a hotspot for wildlife, a bastion of prehistory, and a simply life-affirming place to wander and reconnect with your wild side. **Andy Neilson** leads our walk around this magical place.



Charnwood Lodge is both a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve and is open to Trust members only. Please be prepared to show your membership card if asked by a Reserves Officer. You will need an access code for the padlock, available from the LRWT office, 9am–5pm weekdays (call 0116 262 9968). Wear a good pair of boots and please keep to the marked path around the reserve. The walk takes about two hours to complete.

As you go through the gate you will see



Eyebright

the famous Bomb Rocks in front of you, to the left of the track **1**. The 'Bombs' were thought to have been ejected from a nearby volcano 600 million years ago. However, geologists now think that they are the remnants of a pyroclastic flow from the volcano.

With your back to the Bomb Rocks follow the path to the east that runs along the drystone wall **2**. Creeping willow grows in this area. This low-growing shrub is rare in Leicestershire and must be protected from grazing with temporary fencing from time to time. The open heathland ahead is one of the last surviving relics of the Charnwood Forest landscape as it was in the early 1900s. Bracken grows in dense stands and is controlled by cutting and rolling. Follow the path close to the wall where you will find a boardwalk **3**.

The tree-lined stream provides a corridor that bats move along to feed around the reservoir **4**. Eight species have been found at Charnwood Lodge, including the rare Natterer's bat, making it one of the most important sites in the county for bats. Our route turns off from

Mandarin duck



GILLIAN DAY

the main path here. Just over the stream bear to your right and aim for the stile in the wall that takes you to the small reservoir **4**.

Colony Reservoir was probably built around 1850 to supply water to nearby Mount Saint Bernard Abbey and Charley Mill. Today it offers a home for toads, birds like little grebe, mandarin and grey heron, as well as a host of insects such as dragonflies. The water is generally very shallow, with large colonies of water horsetail. Follow the path along the dam until you come to Marl Field **5**.

Marl Field is believed to have got its name from the marl clay excavated from it to construct the reservoir dam. During World War Two, Italian Prisoners of War



DON SUTHERLAND

were used to clear rocks from the field so it could be ploughed. Fortunately, they either gave up or the war ended before they could finish the job!

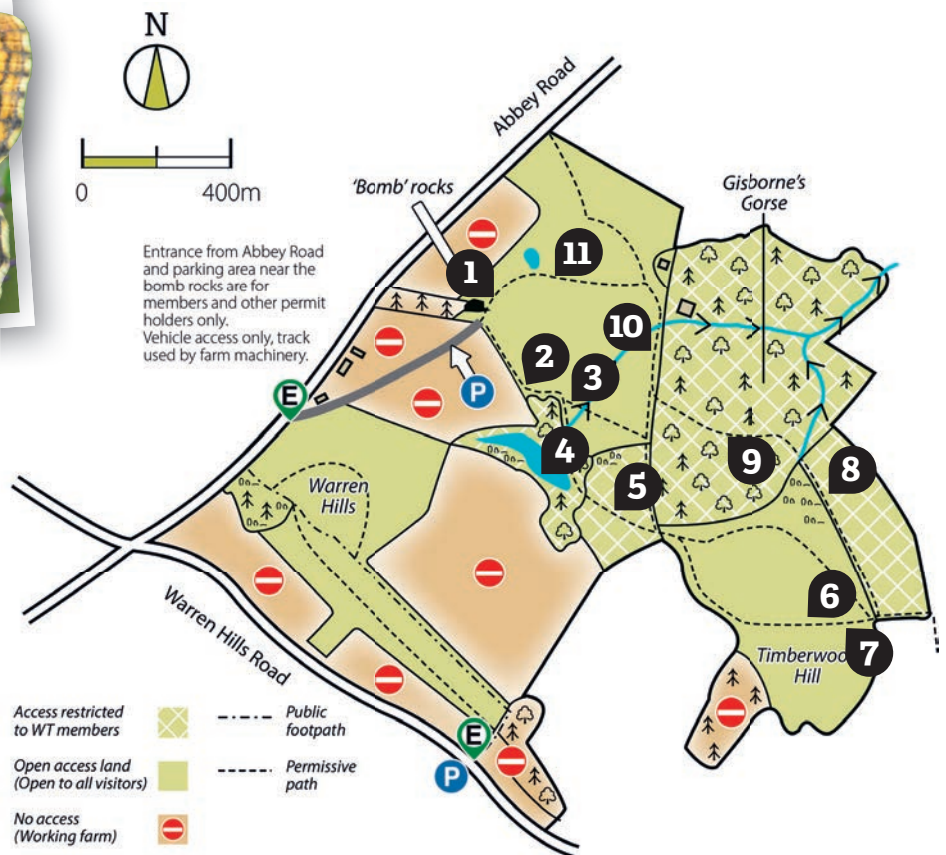
Looking across the field, the area to the left has been cleared but the area to the right still has many large rocks in it. It has never been treated with fertilisers and contains plants such as bilberry and heath milkwort. Follow the path diagonally across the field to the green kissing gate at the bottom of Timberwood Hill. The path then takes you up the side of the hill towards the summit.

The top of Timberwood Hill **6** is 248m above sea level and on a good day offers far-reaching views. There are large colonies of bilberry and craggy outcrops of 600-million-year-old Precambrian rocks. At times, longhorn cattle graze the hill. Ring ouzel and wheatear are regularly seen on migration during the autumn, and buzzards can often be spotted soaring overhead. If you are lucky you might see (or more likely hear) ravens. Tree pipits breed on the heath and an early autumn walk might just reward you with a sighting of the increasingly rare wall brown butterfly on the rocky outcrops.

Lower down, to the right of the path, is a boggy area **7** that contains different species of bog moss and several clumps of cross-leaved heath, with its pretty pink flowers. Wet heath like this is extremely rare and conservation work here involves



TOM MARSHALL



keeping the bog clear of invading trees. Follow the path as it goes through the large gap in the wall. Keep the wall on your left and follow the path through the trees running parallel to the wall to emerge into Heather Field **8**.

Heather Field has plenty of gorse as well as heather, common-spotted orchids and other plants such as the tiny eyebright. This is a good place to sit quietly and wait to see what wildlife appears. From here follow the path into the woods. Gisborne's Gorse **9** was planted by Thomas Gisborne, owner of the estate in the 1840s. He also commissioned the miles of drystone walls present. The path continues ahead until you emerge back out onto The Rough **10**. Turn right and follow the path back down towards the tarmac drive.

The Rough is dominated by purple moor-grass and bracken, but beside the track there are clumps of petty whin, its only location in Leicestershire. The Rough is a good location for ground-nesting birds such as meadow pipit, linnet, skylark and reed bunting, so please keep any dogs on a lead. In the autumn and winter months, redwing and fieldfare are regular visitors. Turn left onto the drive and follow it back up towards the Bomb Rocks **1**.

Ponds such as the one next to the track

11 are valuable to a range of wildlife, including birds and amphibians, plus many different insects. During the Second World War, bombs and munitions were stored along tracks like this one throughout the Charnwood Forest. In 2011 an unexploded star shell was found when part of the pond was cleared. If you look behind you, away to left of the track, you will see the rocks on Flat Hill, on the edge of the nature reserve.

FACTFILE


From Copt Oak head towards Whitwick. At the Forest Rock crossroads turn right towards Oaks in Charnwood. The entrance to Charnwood Lodge is about 500m from this junction on the right-hand side. Park on the farm track, as indicated on the map.

Nearest postcode: LE67 4UA (Abbey Road entrance)

Map ref: SK 458 154

what3words: betraying.contoured.outcasts

Parking: Along farm track off Abbey Road
Size: 197ha

 **For further information,** please see our Nature Reserve Guide or visit lrwt.org.uk/nature-reserves



Fabulous FUNGI!

Fly agaric

As days cool down, they emerge from the woodland floor as if by magic. One day there's just leaves, the next a glorious scarlet dome decorated with white spots – a fly agaric fungus signalling that autumn has arrived!

Fungi are fabulous and mysterious. We see the fruiting bodies that sprout from a vast underground web of mycelia, threading beneath our feet and sending chemical signals to connect trees with other plants, a real 'wood-wide-web'.

Their names are enchanting too: porcelain fungus, amethyst deceiver, chicken of the woods, and angel wings can all be found in the Trust's nature reserves.

Is there a difference between toadstool, mushroom and fungus? 'Toadstool' is the colloquial term for a fungus that has a cap, stalk and is poisonous to humans, while a mushroom is considered to be an edible fungus. The term 'toadstool' dates from the 14th century and means just that: toads were considered highly poisonous and the fungus looked like a stool. We don't recommend eating any wild fungus without expert guidance and identification.

JON HAWKINS / SURREY HILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

Did you know?

In 2021 a rare fungus that lives on decaying bulrushes was discovered at Rutland Water Nature Reserve. There are only seven records of *Psathyrella typhae* on the National Biodiversity Network. A specimen of the find is now in the Fungarium at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.



Fly agaric



Blusher



Common puffballs



Turkey tail



King Alfred's cakes



Scarlet elf cup



Stinkhorn



Common eyelash



Field bird's nest



Shaggy ink cap

See them for yourself

Charnwood Lodge

Toxic to humans but often eaten by wildlife, **fly agaric** is found among the birch and pine trees in Charnwood Forest. It forms an intimate, mutually beneficial relationship with the roots of its host.

Blusher is a toadstool with a reddish-grey cap and white gills found on the roots of conifer and hardwood trees. Patches on the cap surface and a ring on the stem are the remnants of veils – thin membranes that encase the fungus as it grows and matures. The flesh of the stem flushes red if bruised.

Where: Copt Oak, LE67 4UX

Prior's Coppice

When fresh, the external coating of **common puffball** looks like a scattering of tiny white pebbles. This wears away to reveal a lattice pattern. Every time the common puffball is hit by a raindrop, a puff of spores escape! Look for it under trees in the open, grassy ground in this relic of ancient wildwood.

Turkey tail is a bracket fungus growing out of rotting trees in overlapping velvety caps with concentric rings of colours including purple, brown and grey with a creamy-white outer edge.

Where: Braunston, LE15 8DB

Cloud Wood

Looking like lumps of charcoal, **King Alfred's cakes** grow out of decaying trees. This is a fire-starter fungus that our ancestors may have carried from one camp to the next.

On late winter walks it's easy to spot **scarlet elfcup**, one of the smallest fungi, with bright red cup-shaped caps growing from green moss-covered branches lying in damp woodland.

Where: Breedon-on-the-Hill, DE73 8BG

Rutland Water Nature Reserve



Nearly 100 species of fungi thrive in the damp woodland and grassland habitats around Rutland Water.

You may smell the phallus-shaped **stinkhorn** before you see it, growing out of an egg-shaped base. Its olive-brown, gel-covered head is a magnet for flies that feed on the gel to reveal a honeycombed pattern.


Miniscule, black-fringed, red-coloured cups of **common eyelash** grow in damp areas in Egleton. Another tiny fungus is **field bird's nest**, with grey cups resembling egg-filled bird's nests, which grows on decaying twigs and wood-chippings.

In October look out for **shaggy inkcaps** with their grey-white 'lawyer's wigs' bell-shaped caps in the wet meadow in front of Swan Hide. Field Blewit fungi forms a large 'fairy-ring' in the sheep pasture opposite and between Grebe and Osprey Hides.

Where: Manton, LE15 8RN

**Julia Bradbury**  @JuliaBradbury

Nature is there for you

 Vitamin N (for Nature) is good for you physically, mentally and physiologically, and walking is one of the most accessible activities and the easiest way to immerse yourself in it. You don't need much expertise or equipment, or even an epic landscape; you just put one foot in front of the other. All my life, but even more so through my cancer diagnosis, and other challenging episodes, nature has been there for me. It's brought me strength and mental clarity. And, as well as the obvious health benefits it brings, the outdoors is a treasure trove of inspiration and really gives me the space to think things through.

Yet, we know that one in two children spend less than a single hour outside every day. One of the barriers I've seen through my work with The Outdoor Guide and our Waterproofs and Wellies project is that, in many cases, children simply don't have the appropriate clothing to spend time outdoors at school. Kids grow out of clothes so quickly, and with the difficult economic times we live in, it's no surprise that many families struggle to keep up with constantly buying new items. We're trying to remove this barrier by supplying schools with waterproofs and wellies to aid outdoor learning, enabling children to gain access to nature. Properly equipped, I hope that by spending more time outdoors, children will develop a meaningful connection with the natural world, as well as bringing those enriching experiences that I've found have been hugely beneficial in later life.

Nature may be the answer to the climate crisis, but it can also help us to deal with things in our personal lives. The benefits of being out in nature are tangible. When we're out walking, we have the power to change

our pace and our mood. We can find union with nature, camaraderie with friends, and a form of inner peace with ourselves. Walking balances the soul and acts as a confidante and therapist and has been proven to soothe anxiety and stress. A mountain or a tree, a bird or a beetle, can keep you company in times of grief, celebration and solitude.

Building nature into your everyday life creates many positive feedback loops, encouraging exercise, which in turn improves your diet, and enables you to sleep better and have better, more meaningful interactions with the world and the people around you. If you can't escape for an hour, try five or 10 minutes in your lunch break. I call them Nature Snacks – just a few minutes every day is enough to revive and restore (although the longer the better in my opinion).

I worry that there is a real feeling of disconnection from nature in the current generation of children and young adults. So it's important to try do our bit to remove barriers. There are many communities doing amazing work supported by The Wildlife Trusts Nextdoor Nature programmes. Schools, individuals and community groups are taking action for nature all across the UK, creating more and more small green spaces, which are especially important in urban areas. That little bit of treasured green space to grow food on and play in gently encourages children to see nature and nurture the spirit of working together.

Find out more about how Wildlife Trusts are helping to support community groups, thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

wildlifetrusts.org/nextdoor-nature

BE MORE WILD

Get into the habit of spending more time in nature. Sign up to our free newsletter to receive emails to inspire, including seasonal wildlife to look out for, tips on how to enjoy nature, and details of what's happening near you.

Sign up at
lrwt.org.uk/newsletter



Julia Bradbury
Sunday Times
Best Selling
author of
Walk Yourself

Happy shares her passion for walking towards happiness with nature by her side. The Outdoor Guide Foundation has a simple aim; to make the outdoors more accessible for all – particularly children. Find out more at theoutdoorguide.co.uk

Come and meet us at the Members' Weekend!

This year, for the first time, the Trust is hosting a Members Weekend, of which the AGM will form a part. We'd love to see you there!



AMY LEWIS

This year's extended and in-person Annual General Meeting (AGM) includes even more presentations and talks, with plenty of opportunity to meet staff and Trustees to find out more about the exciting work we are doing. Plus, there will be a chance to join us on our reserves to see some of that work first hand.

What's planned?

The weekend starts with a meeting at St Martin's House Conference Centre in central Leicester. This fully accessible venue is located right next to Leicester Cathedral. Doors open at 9.45am on Saturday 23rd November. Do plan to arrive early so you can chat with Trustees and staff before proceedings start. There

will be lots of information about our current work set out around the venue to provide you with talking points!

The day's events then start at 10.20am with our first speaker, John Everett OBE, FRSA, Chief Executive of The National Forest Company, an organisation which the Trust works with very closely. John will give us an overview of the NFC's current work in the area.

Our AGM then follows and, after a short break, presentations by Joe Davies, Head of Nature Reserves, and Ben Devine, Head of Nature Recovery, to tell us about their progress and plans for increasing local biodiversity. Fee Worton is next to tell us more about our Nextdoor Nature initiatives in the City of Leicester. The meeting finishes around 2pm.

Additional breaks during the meeting will offer a chance to chat with staff, and we will be providing teas, coffees and pastries throughout. We are unable to provide lunch but the venue is very close to many dining options.

On Sunday 24th November, we are hosting special walks just for members at three locations: Cossington Meadows, Holwell Reserves and Charnwood Lodge. These will run from 10am to 12.30pm.

Open to all

The weekend's events are open to all members. Booking is essential as places are limited. You can attend on both days or just one, but please specify this when you book, along with which walk you wish to join if attending on the Sunday.

For members unable or not wishing to attend the in-person meeting on the Saturday, we are running a webinar to broadcast the proceedings of the meeting. This will include the AGM, and members who attend online will be able to vote, as at previous AGMs.

Please see the letter which accompanies this issue of *Wild*. This sets out our formal invitation to you to attend the weekend, details of the Annual General Meeting, along with further information about the weekend and how to book.



Holwell Reserves

See you soon!

We hope you will be able to join us, but don't delay in booking, as places are limited and we expect these events to be popular! Book online at lrwt.org.uk/agm



Secrets of success with peat-free compost

Selecting plants is one of the most exciting parts of gardening, but compost choice can determine a great deal of success in the garden.

When selecting a compost, the most important thing is to look for a peat-free label. Taking peat out of the ground destroys important habitats and releases large amounts of stored carbon into the atmosphere, so gardening peat-free is an easy way to take positive action for wildlife and climate. If you can't find peat-free stated on the bag, then the chances are the product contains peat. Something marked as organic or environmentally-friendly doesn't necessarily mean it's peat-free.

Peat-free mixes contain more microbes, many of which are beneficial for your plants but can change how the compost performs the longer they are left in the bag. To get the best from your compost, we recommend using it in the growing season you bought it or within a year of the manufacture date. If you are using smaller amounts of specialist mixes,

such as ericaceous compost for acid-loving plants, you could share with a friend or local gardening group to save on cost.

Not every peat-free mix will be a perfect fit for every gardener, so try a couple of different types to find one that suits your plants and growing environment. Peat-free compost has come a long way, with a wide range for every need and plant type available. All peat-free mixes are different, so you might also need to adjust watering and feeding a little. As a general rule, peat-free may need to be watered little and often compared to peat.

Getting to know what you need from your compost and which products give healthy, long-lasting plants can unlock a whole new world of gardening success for anyone, even if you don't have the greenest fingers!



Claire Thorpe

is the peat-free campaign manager for the RHS, and is passionate about helping people garden sustainably.

ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE ARTEMIS





● Meadows

A wildflower patch full of native annuals like ox-eye daisy won't need any compost at all, as these plants prefer low nutrient soils, so you can sow directly into bare ground.

● Veg

Soil improvers and manures, which contain lots of organic matter, can add nutrients without the need for lots of fertiliser.

● Seeds

Seed and cutting compost is specially mixed to suit these young plants, being much finer and containing less slow-release feed than multipurpose compost. The fine texture is especially important for small seeds like foxglove.

● Trees and hedges

As well as being brilliant for wildlife, trees and hedge plants often come bare root (not in a pot), so you can plant in the ground, just adding some mulch. Home compost or leaf mould are easy mulches to make yourself.

● Baskets, containers and boxes

Peat-free compost is prone to a dry top so check with your finger to see if there is moisture lower down in the container and aim to keep compost just moist, stopping watering before it runs out the bottom.

● Specialist plants

Look for products labelled as working for plant groups that need specific soil conditions (e.g. carnivorous sundews or ericaceous cranberries), as multipurpose compost won't provide the conditions they need to grow well.

● Pond plants

Use special aquatic mixes to fill pond basket planters. These are formulated to ensure nutrient release is slower, stopping leaching into the pond, which can cause algal growth.

● Houseplants

One of the biggest killers of houseplants is overwatering. Mixing houseplant-specific compost with grit or fine bark will help stop root rot by improving drainage.

As well as in compost, peat can be found in bedding plants and potted house plants. Help us raise awareness of 'hidden peat' by becoming a peat inspector: wildlifetrusts.org/ban-sale-peat





MY WILD LIFE: Chris Desai, Leicester



“Being on the water gives me a zest for life”

Chris Desai is a man on a mission to clean up the world's oceans and rivers, and he's hands-on with a project in his home city of Leicester, as he explains to **Wendy Tobitt**.



Why is water so important to you?

We all start our lives in water. We are born from water, and

water is essential for our health and the health of our planet. I think that's why we're so affected by the terrible state of water today – we're polluting our planet and that makes us very sad.

My dad came to Leicester as a refugee in 1971. I was born in Highfields and then we moved to the village of Desford, where I had a very nature-based childhood climbing trees and exploring fields.

My mum is a second-generation sailor, so we spent every holiday sailing in Norfolk and Cornwall, and Bosworth Water Trust where she taught me to sail.

Being on the water gives me a zest

for life. When I took sailing lessons, the instructor told me I should never sail! That was the spark to drive me to be better, and several years later I got my Yachtmaster's Offshore Certificate and Captain's Licence.

Why did you set up a charity?

My most significant life-changing moment was with a pod of dolphins riding the bow-waves of a boat while I was meditating. There was one dolphin that kept looking at me every time it

leapt alongside the yacht, and I got very emotional. That was my initiation into environmental conservation. I felt so connected with the water, and I knew I had to make changes in my life.

In 2018 I set up The Vayyu Foundation to enable people from all ethnic, marginalised and isolated communities to take action for their environment on rivers, oceans and the green spaces surrounding them.

Through our UOCEAN 2050 project we work with communities in India, Malawi, The Seychelles, Indonesia and The Maldives on projects in mangroves,



“At that time ‘sustainability’ wasn’t even talked about, but I knew that we had to change the way we worked.”

coral reefs and, of course, cleaning up plastic on rivers and beaches – that's always our first line of action.

What are you doing on the River Soar?

UOCEAN 2050 is installing a boom on the surface of the River Soar at Watermead Park, Thurmaston to catch plastic and litter as it flows downstream.

For the last three years we've collected more than 10,000 kilos of pollution from the river and its banks with the help of dozens of volunteers from Leicester's communities. In a recent clean-up more than 50 people, including garment workers and families from diverse communities came together to show their shared commitment for Leicester's natural environment.

It's such a huge problem that we need to increase our efficiency. The boom will gather even more plastic and litter, then sweep it to the bank where it'll be collected by volunteers for recycling by Leicestershire County Council. The boom is a modular floating barrier made locally using locally sourced materials. It's been approved by the Canal & River Trust, and it allows fish to swim safely beneath it.

What is your personal ethos?

I worked in the fashion industry for many years, and it was while visiting producers in India and Turkey that I really became



Above: Litter collected on a recent River Soar cleanup. Right: Chris is on a mission to clean up.



aware of the dreadful pollution the industry was causing in rivers and the ocean. At that time 'sustainability' wasn't even talked about, but I knew that we had to change the way we worked.

Setting up the charity The Vayyu Foundation was audacious. Now we're taking our work around the world to make environmental conservation accessible to

“The reflections of sunlight sparkling on the surface of a river is very calming.”

everyone and celebrate diversity – that's why I started this movement.

The boom across the River Soar is one of several designed by Plastic Fischer to clean up the most plastic-polluted rivers across the world. It is made by local people in each location using locally sourced materials. Working with indigenous communities is an important part of UOCEAN 2050's work. Cleaning up rivers and enabling local people to make new products with the plastic they collect is part of the ethical circular economy to help the indigenous communities build schools and hospitals.

There's so much more UOCEAN 2050 is doing with our funding partners to restore mangrove habitats, store carbon and improve ecosystems. We are always working with local communities.

Are you working in other UK cities?

Yes, UOCEAN 2050 has 18 Chapters across the country in cities such as Birmingham, Nottingham, Bristol, Edinburgh and London: big cities with

canals and rivers that need our help. We're also leading beach cleans in Dorset, Weymouth and Kent.

You're a very busy man, do you ever relax?

I go to the Geeta Bhavan Temple in Leicester every day to sit and meditate, that is my retreat. When I'm outdoors I love being beside water. The reflections of sunlight rippling and sparkling on the surface of a river, especially when it's flowing over a weir, is very calming.

Who inspires you?

My mum, Rebecca is my inspiration. Her heart is so big, she has the most empathy for every living thing. She's got a warrior-like tenacity and strong principles, and she's audacious. Thank you, mum, for everything – my passionate connection with the ocean and rivers comes from my childhood sailing with you.



Cleaner rivers mean more opportunities for wildlife.



ANDY MORFEW

You can help, too!

Join UOCEAN 2050 in Leicester to clean up the River Soar and stop plastic pollution in the ocean. Visit: uocean.org/volunteer

Watch the biggest-ever cleanup on the River Soar: youtube.com/watch?v=oUxIXVNDhNI



Contact us if you or someone you know could feature in a future issue of *Wild*. We're looking for inspiring stories from people like you! Email info@lrwt.org.uk



REWILDING

A journey of **hope** towards nature's recovery

Dr Rob Stoneman, director of landscape recovery at The Wildlife Trusts, shares his vision of a Wilder Isles.

Memories of childhood – those long summer days messing around by the river. My little patch of childhood heaven lay underneath an old bridge made of the local limestone speckled with fossils from long ago. We floated out on tractor inner tubes or caught the tiddlers – mottled brown bullheads, minnows and sticklebacks – and hunted for crayfish. The river danced with mayfly – food for grey wagtails, swallows and martens. Banished to memory only, for later, the dredgers moved in, deepening the river and removing the riverside plants. The floodplain field's old pasture was stripped and re-seeded to grow landscaping turf. Bullheads are now a red data book endangered species and native crayfish not far from extinct.

It's a story that can be told across Britain – the last few decades have been calamitous for wildlife. Almost every measure you use shows that same picture. Kent Wildlife Trust's splatometer is a good example. This measures the number of insects that (sadly) get splattered on your number plate. Comparisons between 2005 and 2020 shows a 50% decline. That insect apocalypse plays out as far few pollinators, essential for our real food security, and is already reducing the UK's £100m apple crop. The song of the dodo will now never be known but its message is clear – the fragmentation of wildlife habitat drives species extinctions, but equally the opposite is true.

For this does not need to be a tale of doom.

The source of many a British river is high on the blanket bogs of our uplands. These peaty waters run the colour of tea, especially after storms as the peat washes out. Yet on a rain-lashed day, I sit on the banks of the River Feshie looking at trout in crystal clear water, for Glen Feshie has been 'rewilded'. Likewise, as those increasingly intense summer droughts take hold, the tributaries of the River Otter in Devon remain as green oases, for the River Otter has another charismatic mammal in its reach – beavers.

During Storm Desmond, which caused havoc in Cumbria as floodwaters burst out of the rivers and into the homes and livelihoods of the people of Carlisle or Cocker mouth, one river stayed in its banks. The River Liza had been restored to its natural function, braiding and meandering, accumulating logs and stones so that when the storm hit, the Liza's natural obstructions held the water back, filtering it and releasing it more slowly. Imagine the cost saving if all the streams of the Lake District National Park were allowed to run natural and free.

In all these cases, people have intervened to restore the natural processes that bring nature back to balance and back to abundance. From peatland rewetting to leaving dead wood on a tree, to reconnecting a river to its floodplain, reintroducing natural grazing or bringing back top predators such as lynx and wolves, they are all interventions that bring natural function back to our landscapes and to our lives.

The results are spectacular. Dorset and Hampshire & the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trusts have acquired farms and taken them out of arable



European bison have been reintroduced to Kent Wildlife Trust's Blean Woods nature reserve.



Mayflies numbers have declined due to habitat loss.



The Missing Lynx Project is exploring the potential for a lynx reintroduction in northern England.

farming to ease the pollution pressure on coastal ecosystems. Rooting by pigs (we are not allowed to reintroduce wild boar yet), extensive semi-natural grazing by hardy cattle (a proxy for the long-extinct auroch that once roamed Britain) and re-naturalising streams work alongside the natural recolonisation by wildlife. Fields, once almost devoid of wildlife, are now full of finches, buzzing with insects and multi-coloured once more with flowers and scrub.

On a tributary of the River Otter, a shallow flooded field oozes with the beauty and splendour of wildlife returning in profusion. Herons, egrets and waders poke the wet soil for food whilst damsel and dragonflies stalk the sweeps of purple and yellow flowers. This return of wildlife abundance cost nothing, required no permissions and was not planned. Rather it resulted from a pair of beavers deciding this place would make a wonderful place to call home.

I return to my childhood memories once more – this time cowboy movies with buffalo on the Great Plains of North America. Magnificent beasts racing across the open grasslands. Only later did I learn that there were over 60 million of these mighty beasts just a few centuries ago and only 547 left by 1880 – an incredible decline and testament to rapid agri-industrialisation of the Plains following European emigration. And much later, I learned that Europe had buffalo too – European bison – whose decline had preceded their American cousins much earlier, leaving less than 50 animals by the 1920s.

Yet, as in North America, captive breeding and eventual wild release has re-established European bison, albeit still at fairly low numbers. Imagine then, the excitement of seeing wild bison once again in Europe. This time in the high Carpathian Mountains of Romania – a brief heart-pumping encounter deep in the beech woods. Imagine that excitement doubled at the prospect of bison in

Britain, yet this is exactly what Kent Wildlife Trust has achieved at Blean Woods.

Restoring natural processes – whether bison in woodlands, sphagnum once more flourishing on an upland moor, or an old oak being given the grace to gently rot from its core over many hundreds of years – is changing the way we think about how to restore nature. What is so exciting about this way of thinking – rewilding, is that it gives us an approach, a way of working where we can have a realistic chance of turning the nature and climate crisis around.

This is a message of hope that lights the path through. It starts with a rewilding of our imagination, it continues with deliberate interventions to restore natural processes, it culminates in a rapid rushing back of wildlife. If we give wildlife space, it will return.

Join this rewilding revolution. Rewild your garden. Adding dead wood, a pond and putting in some structure – a bit of shrubbery for example – has been shown to vastly increase garden wildlife diversity and abundance. Encourage your local school to let the grounds go a bit wilder; ask the Council to plant street trees and leave the grass long in the local park; ask your MP to ban burning on upland moors and allow sphagnum to recover and while you're at it, ask them to get on with licensing beaver reintroductions. Rewilding is a journey – a continuum of increasing wildness, that goes way beyond looking pretty, to places where wildlife is restored. This is a journey of hope and recovery from window box to National Parks. A journey towards our much wilder isles.



Dr Rob Stoneman is director of landscape recovery at The Wildlife Trusts

Read more about the work of The Wildlife Trusts to bring wildlife back at a landscape-scale.

 wildlifetrusts.org/rewilding



Events & Activities

September 2024 –
January 2025

Get closer to nature and be inspired

Our full events programme can be found online. Check there for further details, including how to book, prices, times, and venue. Anyone booked on an event or volunteering activity will be notified of any changes. New events are constantly being added, so please check regularly for the latest updates: lrwt.org.uk/events



Local groups

Charnwood Local Group

Indoor meetings: Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall, 50 Main St, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, LE12 8RZ. Admission £3 members, £3.50 non-members, children free. Check website for walk events. Contact Kate Moore on 01509 891005, kate.moore123@yahoo.co.uk

Great Bowden Local Group

Indoor meetings: The Village Hall, The Green, Great Bowden, LE16 7EU. Admission £4. Contact Bruce White on 01858 467976.

Melton Mowbray Local Group

Indoor meetings: United Reformed Church, 2 Chapel St, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1LZ. Admission £1.50 members, £2 non-members. Contact Peter Dawson on 01664 852119, peter.dawson69@ntlworld.com

North West Local Group

Indoor meetings: Ashby Methodist Church, 5 Burton Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, LE65 2LF. Admission £3. Contact David Maltby on 01530 222934 or Margaret Mabey on 01530 412410.

Rutland Local Group

Indoor meetings: Volunteer Training Centre, off Oakham Road, Hambleton, LE15 8BP. Admission £2. Attend in person or on Teams. Contact Becky Howard on 07908 252271.

Leicestershire & Rutland Badger Group

Meetings held online via Teams. Contact Dr David Duckett on 0116 259 7231, info@badgergroup.org.uk

SEPTEMBER



Cossington Meadows

Weds 4 Sept, 7.15-9.15pm

Barn Owl Walk

Head out at dusk to catch a glimpse of majestic barn owls as they come out to hunt. £10pp.



Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Volunteer

Training Centre

Fri 6 Sept, 10am – 12pm

Pond Dipping for Adults

Dip into the incredible wildlife found in ponds on this guided exploration with Tim Sexton.



Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Lyndon

Visitor Centre

Sat 7 Sept, 7-11pm

Lyndon Bat Walk

Search for bats using bat detectors. Booking essential through Jenny Harris (07897 123566 or email jennyharris221@gmail.com).



Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Volunteer

Training Centre

Sat 7 and Sun 8 Sept, 9.30am – 4pm

Drystone Walling

Get to grips with the skills necessary to make your own drystone wall. £99pp.



Charnwood Local Group

Weds 11 Sept, 7.30pm

Conservation Volunteering in Africa

Sharon Leahy leads us on a whirlwind tour of the wildlife she saw during her year-long conservation holiday.



Great Bowden Local Group

Weds 18 Sept, 7.30pm

Underwater World of Rutland

Discover what's lurking underwater in Rutland Water.



Cloud Wood

Fri 20 Sept, 7-9pm

Bat Walk

Join Andy Neilson on this Wild Walk to search for the bats of Cloud Wood. £10pp.



North West Local Group

Fri 20 Sept, 7.30pm

All About Bats!

Peter Proudlove describes the world of bats and the various types you may come across locally.



Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Volunteer

Training Centre

Thurs 26 and Fri 27 Sept, 10am – 4pm

Botanical Art Course

Try your hand at art with botanical artist Dawn Wright. £99pp. Opportunity to purchase an art pack containing paints, brushes and paper on the day at £12 each.

OCTOBER



Charnwood Lodge

Thurs 3 Oct, 10am – 12pm

Fungi Walk

Discover fungi with expert and Head of Nature Recovery Ben Devine. £10pp.



Rutland Water Nature Reserve

Sun 6 Oct, 10am – 12pm

Fungi Walk

Another opportunity to get up close with fungi, with Tim Sexton. £10pp.



Charnwood Local Group

Weds 9 Oct, 7.30pm

Fascinating Fungi

An introduction to fungi and tips for getting started with recording them.



Leicestershire & Rutland Badger Group

Thurs 10 Oct, 7.30pm

Blank Space

The challenges and expectations in creating new woodland at Holwell.



Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Volunteer

Training Centre

Sat 12 and Sun 13 Oct, 9.30am – 4pm

Hedgelaying for Beginners

Learn how to hedge-lay and lay your own section of hedge on this weekend course. £99pp.

Melton Mowbray Local Group

Mon 14 Oct, 7pm

Trees: More than just a piece of wood

Stewart Marshall leads a talk on the incredible and sometimes unexpected life of trees.

Great Bowden Local Group

Weds 16 Oct, 7.30pm

The Leicestershire Wildlife Hospital

Amy Ducker explains the invaluable work of the local wildlife hospital in Kibworth.

North West Local Group

Fri 18 Oct, 7.30pm

Allestree Rewilding Project

Talk on the urban community rewilding project at Allestree Park, Derby.

Rutland Local Group

Mon 21 Oct, 7.30pm

From Hampshire to Rutland

Join our Rutland Water Reserve Officer for a talk on what led him to woodland habitat management at Rutland Water.

Cossington Meadows

Fri 25 Oct, 5.30-7.30pm

Family Bat Walk

Andy Neilson leads us around Cossington Meadows on the hunt for bats. This family event falls during Bat Week!

Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Lyndon Visitor Centre

Tues 29 Oct, 2 sessions: 5pm & 7.30pm

Family Bat Walk

Includes hot chocolate and biscuits for the child and a bat booklet to take home! £5 per child.

Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Lyndon Visitor Centre

Thurs 31 Oct, 2 sessions: 10am & 2pm

HalloWild

Join the trick or treat nature trail, bird watch, spot animal tracks, and make a mask! Hot chocolate and biscuit for each child. £10 per child.



Wildlife Book Club

1st Weds of the month, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Rutland Water Nature Reserve

If you love both reading and wildlife, the Trust's Wildlife Book Club is for you! Every month two books are suggested and discussed covering topics including specific species and landscape/environmental themes. The club is free to join. For more information, please email volunteering@lrwt.org.uk

NOVEMBER

Charnwood Local Group

Sun 3 Nov, 2pm

Fungi Foray

Join an exploration of the fungi at Charnwood Lodge nature reserve on this autumnal amble.

Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Volunteer Training Centre

Sat 9 and Sun 10 Nov, 9.30am – 4pm

Hedgelaying for Beginners

See 12 October for details.

Melton Mowbray Local Group

Mon 11 Nov, 7pm

Fungi: A magical world

Arthur Payne gives a talk on the magical world of fungi.

Charnwood Local Group

Weds 13 Nov, 7.30pm

Topic TBC

Visit the website for more details nearer the time:

lrwt.org.uk/events

Leicestershire & Rutland Badger Group

Thurs 14 Nov, 7.30pm

UK Mammals

Derek Crawley discusses changes in the population of mammals observed over the past decades.

North West Local Group

Fri 15 Nov, 7.30pm

Dormouse Project

How and why dormice were reintroduced to Vice-County 55 and how they are doing in their new woodland.

Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Volunteer Training Centre

Fri 15 Nov, 10am – 4pm

Robin Felt Workshop

Get into the festive spirit early with this creative workshop led by textile artist Lorraine Ellison. £45pp.

Rutland Local Group

Mon 18 Nov, 7.30pm

Highlights of the Great Fen Project

Update on progress at the Great Fen Project including details of wildlife found at the reserve.

Launde Park Wood

Tues 19 Nov, 10.30am

Fungi Walk

Join Sarah Bedford on a fantastic fungal foray. £10pp.

Great Bowden Local Group

Weds 20 Nov, 7.30pm

Woods, Water, Wildlife & Wellness

Bruce Durham, Market Harborough's Tree and Flood Warden, gives an update on what is going on locally.

Prior's Coppice

Fri 22 Nov, 3-4.30pm

Reserves Discovery

Join Sarah Bedford on our very first members-only reserves discovery event! Explore this relic of wildwood.

Members' Weekend and AGM

Sat 23 Nov, 9.45am-3pm & Sun 24 Nov

St Martins House Conference Centre, Leicester

Join us for our annual AGM and – new for 2024 – Members Weekend! This year includes Sunday walks at your choice of Holwell Reserves, Rutland Water Nature Reserve or Charnwood Lodge. Full details on page 25.

DECEMBER

Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Volunteer Training Centre

Sat 7 and Sun 8 Dec, 9.30am – 4pm

Hedgelaying for Beginners

See 12 October for details.

Melton Mowbray Local Group

Mon 9 Dec, 7pm

Members' Evening

Join other Melton Mowbray Local Group members for a special evening.

Wanlip Meadows

Weds 11 Dec, 10am

Reserves Discovery

Our second members' event. Wrap up warm to discover winter wildfowl, including lapwing and snipe.

Charnwood Local Group

Weds 11 Dec, 7.30pm

Making Space for Nature

Overview of recently completed work creating space for nature in Leicester city.

Rutland Local Group

Mon 16 Dec, 7.30pm

The Small Mammals of Rutland Water

Update on the camera trapping survey carried out on Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

North West Local Group

Fri 20 Dec, 7.30pm

Greener Golf and AGM

The up and downs of setting up the pioneering initiative across the county's golf courses to champion nature and environmental issues.

JANUARY

North West Local Group

Weds 1 Jan, 1pm

Moira Furnace Walk

Blow away the winter cobwebs with a New Year walk around the Moira Furnace area. Meet at the car park (DE12 6AT). Please wear winter-appropriate walking gear.

Check
online
for the full and
latest programme
of events



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

21 OCT-3 NOV 2024

Get involved in the Big Wild Walk 2024

Challenge yourself to explore the nature on your doorstep. Walk 30km between 21st October and 3rd November as you fundraise to protect the wildlife you love.

Whether you want to tackle one big hike or take it at your own walking pace over the two weeks, the only competition is against yourself as you raise money to help restore nature. Set up your fundraising page today and join our Facebook group for daily motivation from a welcoming community.

SIGN UP NOW

Sign up and let your friends and family know how you're taking on your Big Wild Walk challenge. Find out more at lrwt.org.uk/big-wild-walk-2024

