



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

.....
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILDLIFE
TRUST BCN CORPORATE MEMBERS
.....

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WILDLIFE AT WORK

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Cover image taken and kindly supplied by Chris Gomersall



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire



Contact Us

For more information on how your business can support the Wildlife Trust visit www.wildlifebcn.org or contact

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/The Wildlife Trust BCN

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[Wildlife Trust BCN](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wildlife-trust-bcn)

Some part/all of your donations could be used to make a Contributing Third party (CTP) payment to a landfill operator to secure a grant through the Landfill Communities Fund.

WILDLIFE GARDENING AT WORK AWARDS 2018



This year we received many stunning photographs and detailed entries for our awards to find the best wildlife sites at work. Expert Wildlife Gardener Bernard Hunt from Hunts Wildlife Landscapes was this year’s judge, and he was hugely impressed by the efforts to create spaces for wildlife at work.

Beating stiff competition, we are delighted to announce that **Cranfield University** won the award for **Overall Winner – Best Wildlife Garden**. The judge was very impressed by the many different strands of biodiversity on the site, including linking up spaces to create continuous sources of nectar, trial plots of different wildflower mixes and a wide variety of different habitats. There’s also a real commitment to encourage mass participation, including awareness-raising campaigns such as their annual ‘Spring watch’ and biodiversity events around the campus.



Cranfield also took the award for **Best Employee Engagement in a Wildlife Garden**, largely due to their fantastic project to introduce staff and students to the skill of beekeeping. Four bee hives were installed in 2016 and successfully colonised with introduced bees and swarms collected on campus – there are now more than 240,000 bees.

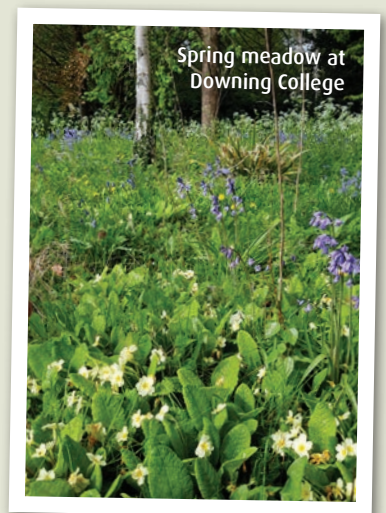
Last year the honey was harvested with help from a group of 40 volunteers, who learned how to cap, spin and pour over 100 jars of honey. The initiative helped to spread awareness to a wider audience of the importance of bees and ways in which to actively encourage them, through all of their communication channels.



Kier won the category of **Best Use of Recycled Materials in a Wildlife Garden**. The judge was very impressed by the high level of creativity and ingenuity in their use of different materials, including road bollards, traffic cones and even an old boat to make new homes for plants and wildlife. We're hoping Kier will inspire others by showing just what amazing things can be done with everyday materials, and enter this category for next year's awards.



Downing College Cambridge won the **Best Wildlife Sighting in a Wildlife Garden**, for their fabulous images of a sparrowhawk in mid-flight with its prey. The judge also highly commended Downing College for their work in developing the site to encourage and enhance wildlife. It's clear that huge strides have been made recently, with the introduction of many new features such as meadow areas and hedgerows; this haven for wildlife is certainly one to watch in future.



Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to all those who entered.



Charlotte, Robin and Donna from 'Going for Gold' accepting their trophy from Helen Daniel

CAMBOURNE 10K CHALLENGE WINNERS

Four teams from our corporate members Arm and Hewitsons took part in the Trust's 10k Business Challenge held at the Cambourne 10k race on Sunday 15 April.

'Going for Gold' from Arm Ltd won the challenge, with the fastest team time of 46 minutes 28 seconds – a fantastic achievement. Well done also to James Makin from Hewitsons who was our fastest runner with a time of 41 minutes 45 seconds. Our fabulous runners raised over £1,200 to help protect and restore local wildlife – huge thanks to every one of you.



MEMBER NEWS



We are delighted to welcome Cambridge based **Campkins Cameras**, who have recently joined the Trust as a Corporate Supporter.

As a family run business since 1955, Campkins has taken pride in providing photographic and optical equipment alongside personal customer service and aftersales assistance. Manager, Owen Howell said: "We are delighted to join the Wildlife Trust BCN as a corporate member. Our staff are fascinated with capturing images of nature, as I am sure many of the members of the Trust are. We hope to be involved in many events in the future and look forward to meeting and assisting members with photography, videography and optics."

Last summer, we celebrated our Partnership with **Prologis** at the launch of Phase One of Lilbourne Meadows, created as mitigation for the Prologis Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT). Since then our staff have been busy managing the 193-hectare site to enhance the biodiversity of the area and bring lasting benefits for the local community of Lilbourne.

The Trust has made good use of the new livestock barn during lambing season and for managing our rare sheep breeds, which we use for conservation grazing. The bat house, extensive wildlife ponds, meadows, hedgerows and bat and bird boxes have been created or restored to encourage a wealth of species to take up residence including little egrets, barn owl, great crested newts, curlew and lapwing. Our staff have been busy running sheep dog trials, hosting a local community event and monitoring the wildlife with our expert volunteers and use of our drone, and we have also been creating interpretation boards for the site.

One of the key achievements of this site has been the excellent partnership developed between Prologis and Wildlife Trust staff, who have worked closely over the years. Along with other key stakeholders they have progressed this site from



initial drawings through to reality on the ground, which will provide lasting benefits to biodiversity and the local community.

Lamb at Lilbourne
Photo: J Pearman

MONITORING THE MIDNIGHT SONG BIRD

by Mike Drew, Biodiversity Action Plan Scientist for Anglian Water

Anglian Water, Wildlife Trust BCN and the British Trust for Ornithology have been working since 2012 on a research project to try to find out why nightingale numbers have been declining. By monitoring them, we can find out about both them and their breeding habitats here in the UK, and also their migration routes to and from Africa. The survey sites include Methwold Hythe, Norfolk; Alton Water, Suffolk; Orlestone Forest, Kent; and closer to home Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire. Surveys have been carried out every week, early morning and midnight from mid-April to the end of May using tracking devices fitted to the nightingales to monitor their migration.

A male nightingale overwintered on the border of Senegal and Gambia, but in February flew to Sierra Leone over 4,000 miles away before coming back to Grafham Water. A juvenile nightingale caught at Grafham Water in June 2015 has been caught again for the first time this year at Shire Hill Lodge near Southwick, Northamptonshire. Since the project launched in 2012, 73 volunteers have walked 549 miles; listened for 429 hours; carried out 143 surveys; and bird ringers have spent 444 hours tagging and catching nightingales.



Nightingale
Photo: Mike Drew





Orchid at Upwood Meadows
Photo: Peter Walker

WORKING FOR WILDLIFE

by John Comont, Director of Conservation for the Wildlife Trust BCN

Arrive at any of the Trust offices early in the morning and you'll find reserve staff and volunteers busily preparing for the day's operations. With nearly 4,000 hectares to manage at over 120 sites across the three counties, there's always plenty to do to look after our precious wildlife. As I write, some of our flower filled grasslands are just reaching their peak with sheets of cowslips giving way to buttercups, yellow rattle and eventually scabious and knapweed. To keep these sites in tip-top condition there's a lot of work behind the scenes. Some sites will be cut for hay, others grazed by cattle and sheep and this can only happen if we keep invasive poisonous plants like ragwort at acceptable levels - many thousands of hours are spent on these tasks every summer. Without that effort, grasslands can be quickly overtaken by a few common vigorous species and eventually scrub and trees. The reward for all this effort are the blankets of colourful orchids at places like Upwood Meadows and on the grass downland in Bedfordshire, and chimney sweeper moths dancing in the sunshine between the flowers of pignut at High Wood and Meadows in west Northamptonshire.

Our Vision:

'People close to nature, in a land rich in wildlife'

Our Mission:

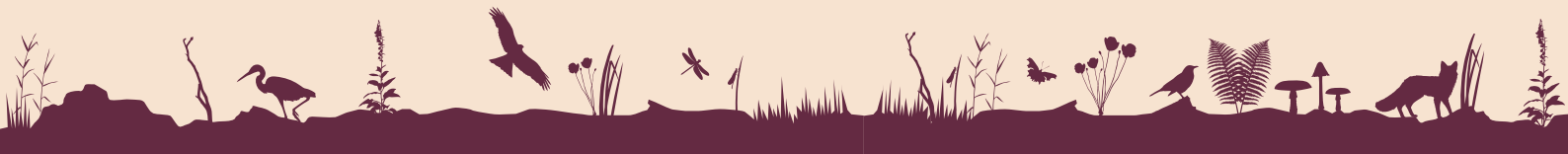
- To conserve local wildlife, by caring for land ourselves and with others
- To inspire others to take action for wildlife
- To inform people, by offering advice and sharing knowledge

95% of our local population live within just **5 miles** of one of our nature reserves – where's your nearest?

www.wildlifebcn.org/wildlife/reserves

We have more than **1000 volunteers** and over **100 staff**

We have **36,000 members** and more than **60 businesses** working together to protect local wildlife



BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS



Hedgehog
Photo: Gillian Day

As part of National Hedgehog Awareness Week, **Redrow Homes** Oak View Development and Caddington Oak hosted talks by Paul Wyer from the Trust about nature and hedgehogs. These developments are ensuring that homes are hedgehog friendly to protect the species and encourage wildlife to the area by offering hedgehogs highways in the gardens.

Paul said: "The hedgehog is one of the most iconic of British creatures, and it's estimated that their numbers have fallen by 30 per cent since 2002. We're thrilled to work with Redrow Homes to help raise awareness of their plight."

Having worked with the Trust to create Trumpington Meadows nature reserve, **Grosvenor** have continued this commitment and support for the local community by once again sponsoring the Discovery Day on **18th August**. The 58-hectare reserve officially opened in 2016 and is a fantastic place to discover nature and explore diverse habitats. By wandering along paths next to the river and through flower-filled meadows, you can see a wide

variety of butterflies, bumblebees and birds. You might even spot brown hare or otter if you're lucky, as they're frequent visitors.

The Discovery Day will be a chance to meet the Trust and enjoy everything this beautiful reserve has to offer, plus fun activities for all ages.



Trumpington Discovery Day
Photo: Keith Heppell



Cambridge Building Society chose the Wildlife Trust BCN as one of the elected charities for their 2018 community donations.

The Society gives funding to charities by asking members of the public to choose from a shortlist; they then vote for their preferred charity online. Public voting during March and April meant the Trust received £587, for which we are very grateful. If you spot an opportunity to nominate a charity for such a fund, please bear the Trust in mind!



The Wildlife Trust BCN has been nominated as one of the charities to benefit from the fundraising activities of Luton-based **Foxley Kingham** in their 50th Anniversary year. They are planning some great events including Beer Tasting, Race Night, Quiz Night, Murder Mystery Night and some of their staff will be taking part in Tough Mudder, an epic teamwork challenge of mud and obstacles. Everyone's welcome to attend their events, see <https://www.fkca.co.uk/news-events/50th-anniversary>

Hayraking
Photo: Amy Hayden



Trumpington Meadows was also the recent host of a Wild Work Day for our Corporate Member **Cambridge University Press**. Thirty-one colleagues from the Press's legal team gathered from Singapore, the Philippines, India and their Cambridge campus, for a practical field day of education, ecology, teamwork and sun on the meadows.

After an introduction and H & S brief from Trumpington Meadows Head Ranger Becky, the team were divided into two groups: one worked in recently mowed meadows, raking and clearing grass to maintain optimum wild flower growth, whilst the second group took a guided walk with ranger Iain to explore the varied grassland, hedgerow,

pond and riverside habitats onsite. Everyone reunited for lunch in the central picnicking area, before trading places for the afternoon and the Trust's Chief Executive Brian Eversham led an educational meander highlighting some of the wonderful flora and fauna and the importance of the conservation tasks being carried out.

Many thanks to everyone present on the day for all their hard work, and we look forward to working together again soon. If you would like your team to experience a day like this, please email corporate@wildlifebcn.org to find out what activities we can offer.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 18 August 2018

Trumpington Meadows Discovery Day. Come and enjoy the activities at this superb location for wildlife spotting.

Fridays until 21 September and Saturdays 21 July to 1 September 2018

Experience the magic of bats flying alongside the riverbank whilst gliding in a chauffeured punt with Trust bat experts. scudamores.com/bat-safari-punting

Fridays 24 & 31 August and 7 September 2018

Evening paddle and bat spotting walks at Rushden Lakes on our Nene Wetlands Nature Reserve. Email info@canoe2.co.uk or call 01604 832115.

Saturday 13 October 2018

Join our staff, trustees and fellow members at this year's AGM in Raunds, Northants. All members are eligible to vote at the meeting - email corporate@wildlifebcn.org



Bat safari
Photo: Martin Bond

THANK YOU

CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Arm
- House of Fraser
- Prologis UK Ltd

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- Anglian Water Services Ltd
- Arqiva Ltd
- The Biodiversity Consultancy
- Gardenworks Tree Surgery Ltd
- Hewitsons
- Orton Hall Hotel & Spa
- Scott Bader
- Scudamore's Punting Company
- UK Power Networks
- Unilever Research Colworth

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- Ciconi Ltd • Colpac Ltd • Cranfield University • Dojima Sake Brewery
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- Spendlove Contracting • Tarmac • University of Northampton • Weetabix
- Wellcome Genome Campus • Wesley Coe • Whittlebury Park
- Willowbrook Construction • Wyboston Lakes

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the many businesses who support the work of the Trust from gifts in kind, sponsorship, donations and booking Wild Work Days.

Arjuna, Cambridge Building Society, Cambridge Cheese Co, Cambridge Festival of Running, Canoe2, Carter Jonas, Dora Mouse, Emmanuel College, FlexEservices, Grosvenor Developments Ltd, Nationwide Building Society, Opticron, Polar Bearings, St Ives Electric Riverboat Co, St Neots St Mary's Rotary Club, SDC, Shoosmiths LLP, Trinity College, Trumpington Meadows Land Co Ltd, Unite Cambridge Medical Branch, Vine House Farm, Waresley Garden Centre, Wildlife Travel.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know by emailing corporate@wildlifebcn.org

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