



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

.....
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILDLIFE
TRUST BCN CORPORATE MEMBERS
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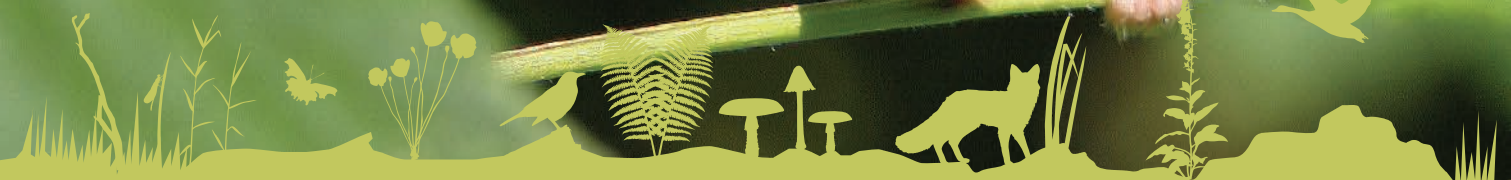
ISSUE 43 SPRING 2019

Registered Charity No. 1000412

WILDLIFE AT WORK

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Cover image taken and kindly supplied by Ian Pratt



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

[wildlifebcn](https://twitter.com/wildlifebcn)

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.



THE ROTHSCHILD WAY CHALLENGE

This year's Challenge will take place on Saturday 15 June, and is a great way to support our work at the Great Fen. The 39-mile guided trail starts at Wicken Fen and finishes at the iconic Rothschild Bungalow in Woodwalton Fen, linking Britain's two oldest nature reserves. The route travels through some of our most stunning Cambridgeshire landscape.

Walkers meet for breakfast at 5am, then attempt to complete the course in under 17 hours. If 39 miles sounds like a bit too much of a challenge, you could team up with colleagues or friends and take on one or more of the four stages each. All participants (or each team) are encouraged to raise a minimum of £100 in sponsorship, which will help to restore and protect precious wildlife and habitat in the Great Fen Living Landscape. For further details see www.wildlifebcn.org/events/2019-06-15-rothschild-way-challenge.

If your company is interested in sponsoring this event please call Sue on 01954 713554.

CAMBOURNE 10K – RUN FOR WILDLIFE!

If you prefer to run instead of walk, why not enter the 10k Business Challenge on Sunday 7 April 2019. For a chance to win the Trust's trophy, taken by **Arm** last year, enter a team of 3 or 4 runners in this popular race. The route passes through our stunning Cambourne nature reserve, and we ask each team to raise a minimum of £100 in sponsorship. Email helen.daniel@wildlifebcn.org or call 01954 713560 for further information.



WILDLIFE GARDENING AT WORK AWARDS 2019

OPEN FOR ENTRIES!

It's time to celebrate your wildlife at work through our Wildlife Gardening at Work Awards.

This year we will award a book prize to the winner of each category: *Wildlife Gardening for everyone and everything* by Kate Bradbury, an award-winning author and journalist. The book is being produced in conjunction with the Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society, and will be hot off the press.



The awards encourage and recognise companies and their employees who make a difference for wildlife at their place of work. It can be as simple as putting up bird boxes or wildflower pots, you could create a recycled materials bug hotel or wildlife pond, or even show off your wider grounds maintained with wildlife in mind. **Nature really needs your help more than ever – especially given the declining numbers of insects and pollinators.** Every action you take is a step to helping wildlife thrive. It's also a great way to get colleagues working together on a fun and relaxed project, improving morale at work.

Just some of last year's fantastic entries

We have a pack of ideas to help, and there are four categories to enter:

- Best Wildlife Sighting at Work
- Best Employee Engagement for Wildlife at Work
- Best Use of Recycled Materials for Wildlife at Work
- Best Wildlife Garden at Work 2019

You can enter just one, or even all four categories. Plus there's a special category sponsored by **Granta Park**, exclusively for their staff:

- Best Wildlife Sighting at Granta Park by employees based on the site



Taking part can help promote your company and endorse CSR values, and we've received fantastic feedback from entrants who valued the time spent outdoors, working with their colleagues to achieve something positive. The results of your work will also create a good visual impression for your clients, so there's nothing to lose.

Email helen.daniel@wildlifebcn.org to request an entry form and information pack. **The closing date for entries is 31 May 2019** and the Awards will be judged by Bernard Hunt from Hunts Wildlife Landscapes. **Good Luck!**



MEMBER NEWS

We are thrilled to announce that **The Gonville Hotel** has recently joined us as a **Corporate Investor member**.

The hotel is keen to collaborate with our Trust to promote biodiversity for their customers and staff to enjoy, and engage with us to share what we are doing to protect local wildlife and habitats in and around Cambridge.

Elliot Murray, Concierge, explained why they chose to become a Corporate Investor member: We are already a Green Accredited Hotel and have observed environmentally friendly practices in various aspects of our business for many years. It is a subject very close to our hearts and whenever an opportunity arises to review practices, products and suppliers, we screen all of our choices through our 'Green' values system, to have as little impact on the environment as possible. We also want to be proactively engaged with forward thinking organisations such as the Wildlife Trust in developing and protecting wildlife habitats on our hotel premises and in our local area. We only have one planet after all and as Mahatma Gandhi famously said: "You must be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Situated in the heart of the historic city of Cambridge, just a short walk from the University colleges and city attractions, the Gonville offers a gracious and luxurious experience with a

wide choice of rooms. The hotel provides fine dining and also a more informal environment in the Atrium bar, which hosts live jazz every Friday and Saturday night between 7 and 9pm.

The Gonville recognises that it may have a direct or indirect effect on the local, regional and global environment and is committed to reducing any harmful effects and working with reputable associations to understand and implement best environmental practices wherever possible. It has been awarded a Silver Award in the Green Tourism Business Scheme.



We also welcome new **Corporate Supporter members** **HolidayCottages.co.uk** and **Rutland Cycling**



An award-winning national business, **holidaycottages.co.uk** specialises in letting holiday properties across the UK. There are more than 5,000 properties in the collection with everything from cosy barn conversions on working farms to grand mansions sleeping large numbers of guests. Jo Price, Marketing Manager, said: "We're pleased to be supporting the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust and helping them to continue the excellent work they do in protecting the wildlife of the region for years to come. We understand just how important wildlife is to locals and tourists alike, and thanks to the work of the Trust, everyone will be able to enjoy the growing numbers and diversity of wildlife that make our countryside so special."



Rutland Cycling has eight stores spanning our region, including those neighbouring our nature reserves at Grafham Water, Pitsford, and Trumpington Meadows. The company strongly believes in enjoying nature whilst supporting our

environment. David Middlemiss, Chief Executive, told us about its history: "Rutland Cycling is an independent, family-run chain of cycle shops, established in 1981 as a simple cycle hire cabin on the shores of the then newly-created Rutland Water. Much has changed in the world of cycling since 1981, but our core values remain the same: to offer excellent customer service, stock the world's best cycling products and inspire the local community with its passion for cycling. Our award-winning stores stock all the major bike brands, feature dedicated Electric Bike Centres, and offer cycle hire and demo, servicing and repairs, bike fit and custom build, plus regular rides and classes. We now have Britain's biggest bike shop, at Rutland Water and our many awards include the BikeBiz Mainstream Retailer of the Year 2018 (finalist), Family Business Award winner 2015 and 2018, and BikeBiz Independent Cycling Retailer of the Year for four years. We're proud to be supporting the Wildlife Trust and look forward to working together to bring people closer to nature. Abundant and thriving natural habitats enrich the experience of all cyclists and, in turn, cycling is a wonderful and sustainable way to engage with the landscape."



CONSERVATION UPDATE

USING THE EVIDENCE

In an extract of a recent blog, our CEO, Brian Eversham, explains why an evidence-based approach has long been one of our core values, underpinning all our work.

Over the last 20 years, not only have we utilised research and evidence in order to inform our approach to conservation, but we have also actively encouraged and supported study and research gathering of all kinds. We have developed our own monitoring and research team, maintained one of the richest programmes of training workshops and helped set up three local Biological Record Centres. We have a strong tradition of education, outreach, training and work placements for all ages, from the under-fives all the way up to Masters and even PhD students. Some of our reserves, such as Flitwick Moor and the Great Fen, have benefited from inter-connected series of studies, and others have been the base for long-term studies which inform our understanding of species ecology and the health of the environment.

Research and new scientific discoveries demonstrate the importance of wildlife in our region and the need for our work to conserve it.

This year we will launch our *State of Nature Review of Beds, Cambs and Northants*, providing a comprehensive review of the importance of the wildlife in our area. Few organisations own or manage such a diverse set of important wildlife habitats, so we can provide the ideal study sites for a very wide range of ecological topics. I am proud of our long history of collaborations with the universities on our patch.

Brian has recently been made Visiting Professor in the School of Water, Energy and Environment at Cranfield University.



Photo: Josh Hellon



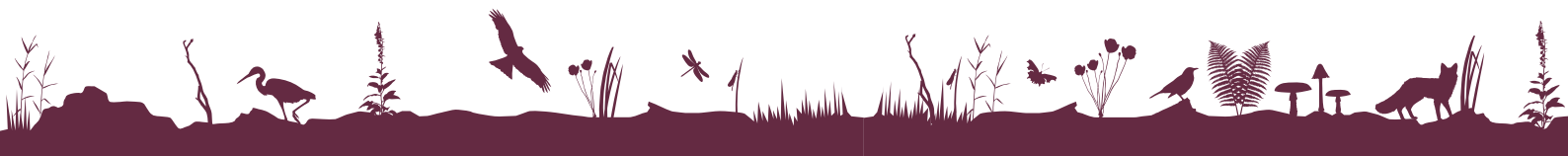
Photo: Colin Yarnell

NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE...

The hazel dormouse is one of our most charming and iconic species, primarily found in deciduous woodland or hedgerows. Adept at climbing and mainly nocturnal, they hibernate throughout winter and are seldom seen in the wild. Once common and relatively widespread, over the past 100 years habitat loss has seen numbers and range decline dramatically, with only localised populations now limited to sites in southern and central Britain. Dormice need a woodland environment with a wide diversity of trees and scrub to provide a constant source of food. Hedgerows function as corridors between woodlands, and their removal or over-management makes these routes impassable to the dormice and isolates populations. As a flagship species for woodland conservation and a bio-indicator of habitat condition, this makes dormice ideal for assessing woodland reserves.

In 1993 the Wildlife Trust's Brampton Wood reserve became the first reintroduction site in the country for the dormouse species' recovery programme. We now monitor five populations, with nest boxes checked monthly between May and October by trained and licensed volunteers. The boxes are cleaned or replaced over winter by groups including school pupils, junior rangers, and a 'men in sheds' group, which helps combat loneliness in older men. We provide materials and instructions to replace damaged boxes, and want to extend the project into new areas.

We are currently looking to raise funds to replace 50 dormouse boxes this year and support our dormouse monitoring work. Our target is £7,000. Would your company consider helping us with this vital work through a donation? Please email us at corporate@wildlifebcn.org or phone Russ on 01954 713557.



GET INVOLVED

FUJIFILM UK SPONSORS THE WILDLIFE TRUST BCN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION CALENDAR 2019/2020

ENTER NOW!

FUJIFILM
Value from Innovation

We're delighted to have Fujifilm UK Ltd as the official sponsor of our photography competition calendar. An innovative and thriving company based in our region, they have also expressed their wish to help local wildlife, and have an environmental vision for sustainability and best practice. Andy Ross, their Corporate Communications Manager said: "As a business based in Bedford for more than 35 years, we're a proud and responsible member of the community and are happy to play a small part in helping the conservation of wildlife in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Furthermore, with cameras and lenses that are perfectly engineered for wildlife photography, whether it's a requirement for lightning-fast autofocus, great image quality or stunning video, we're looking forward to supporting both the region's photographers and the Trust to capture and showcase our stunning local wildlife and the environment."

The competition is open to all ages for photographs of wildlife or landscapes taken anywhere in our three counties and closes at **noon on 15 April 2019**, so you've still time to get out there or go through your archive. A panel of judges will decide the winners, with the first prize winner receiving photography equipment provided by **Fujifilm** and featuring in the 2020 calendar, along with additional winning or acclaimed shots. Our supporter **Opticron** will also be donating prizes.

More information about the competition can be found at wildlifebcn.org/get-involved/photo-competition. Good Luck!



30 DAYS WILD

Our annual challenge to do something wild every day throughout June is back for 2019 and we'd love you and your colleagues to take part. It's a fantastic way to get people to connect with the natural world and feel happier and healthier in the workplace. 'Something wild' can mean anything from listening to birdsong to watching a sunset to drawing a picture of a flower. Perhaps your workplace could aim to have an outdoor picnic as a lunch break one day, or go on a mini safari around your nearest patch of grass. Maybe you could even get a window box and plant some wildflower seeds, or dress up in green to celebrate nature one Friday – there are loads of great ideas in our FREE 30 Days Wild packs. Sign up online from 14 April. There's a huge community of people ready to share their wildness online using #30DaysWild. Join them, join in, and let us know how it goes! wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild



Photo: Wildlife Travel



WILDLIFE TRAVEL

More than just a wildlife holiday: travel with us and support the Wildlife Trusts.

We were set up in 1988, with the express aim of raising money for nature conservation. All profits are donated to the Wildlife Trusts, supporting their vital conservation work around the UK.

Our group holidays are aimed at those who enjoy wildlife, and who want a relaxed pace, comfortable travel, good company and expert leaders. Over the past 31 years we have organised 433 holidays and travelled to 49 countries, and most importantly, we have raised more than £220,000 for the Wildlife Trusts across the UK, including BCN.

From the Isles of Scilly to the Galapagos, from the Alps to the Okavango Delta, travel with us to some of the finest wildlife destinations and support the work of your local Wildlife Trust.

For more information please contact Wildlife Travel by email at wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org or visit www.wildlife-travel.co.uk

CAMBOURNE TO BE WILD FESTIVAL 6-7 JULY 2019

SAVE
THE
DATE!

Save the date for our new family-friendly festival in Cambourne. Live music, food and drink including our own Trust beer, fun family activities and more! All proceeds will support the work of our Wildlife Trust.

Bat safari. Photo: Martin Bond



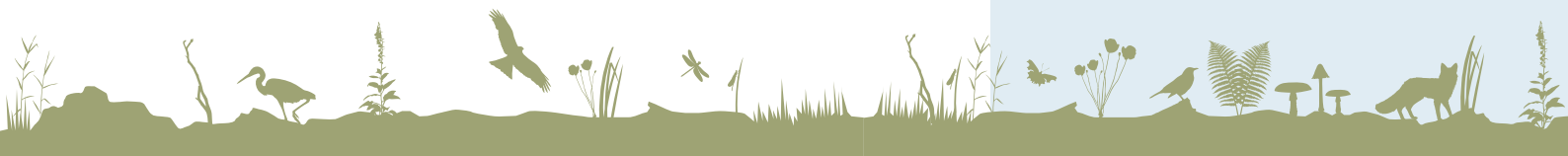
GO BATTY FOR BATS

If you've not yet been on a bat punt safari, why not make this your year? These events are so popular that many come twice in one season!

Spotting the fantastic bat population along the River Cam, the chauffeured tours are offered by **Scudamore's Punting Company** and led by Wildlife Trust bat experts who make sure you get the most from your experience. You can use specialist electronic bat detectors, identify which species of bat are flying close to your punt and find out about our amazing local species.

Tours depart just before dusk and last for 90 minutes. They are scheduled to run from the Granta Place Boatyard every Friday night from 10 May to 27 September and every Saturday from 6 July to 28 September.

Scudamore's will contribute 50% of ticket sales from these trips to the Wildlife Trust BCN. Visit www.scudamores.com/bat-safari-punting



SAVE THE DATE

Saturdays 13, 20 and 27 April 2019

Dawn Chorus Walk and Paddle, Rushden Lakes from 6.15-10am.

Enjoy a walk around the Nene Wetlands with a Wildlife Trust expert, then a self-guided paddle on the River Nene. Phone 01604 832115 or visit canoe2.co.uk/wildlife-trust-paddles

10 May-28 Sept 2019

Scudamore's Bat Punt Safaris

The hugely popular and widely acclaimed safaris are back! Come and see for yourself the evening delights of the river Cam. Fridays from 10th May to 27th September. Saturdays from 6th July to 28th September.

1-30 June 2019

30 Days Wild

Bring a little nature into your life every day for a month.

Saturday & Sunday 6 & 7 July 2019

Cambourne to be Wild

An exciting new family-friendly festival to be held in Cambourne by the Wildlife Trust BCN. wildlifebcn.org/cambournetobewild



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- Willowbrook Construction

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