

**ISSUE 44 SUMMER 2019**

A close-up photograph of a moth with orange and brown wings perched on a purple flower. The moth's wings are a vibrant orange-brown color with darker, almost black, veins and borders. Its body is covered in fine, greyish-brown hairs. The moth has long, thin antennae and is positioned on a bright purple flower with many small, pointed petals. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.



WILDLIFE AT WORK

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Chris Gomersall/2020VISION



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Cambridgeshire
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Contact Us

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can support the Wildlife Trust visit
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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 2019

WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

We received many stunning entries for this
year's competition to find the best wildlife
spaces at work. The judge, expert wildlife
gardener Bernard Hunt from Hunts Wildlife
Landscapes, was hugely impressed by all the
hard work to give nature a helping hand.

Downing College Cambridge scooped
the award for **Best Wildlife Garden at Work
2019**. Since last year's highly commended
entry, staff have worked hard to implement
a host of new features and improvements
for wildlife such as meadow areas, feeders and diverse planting. The college
demonstrates a real commitment to creating an environment for the benefit of
the whole college community, as well as the visiting and residential wildlife.

Jack Sharp, Head Gardener: "We are delighted to have won two awards, which
serve to highlight our commitment to create an environment which has a
positive impact for our Fellows, students, and everyone who visits. We will
continue to develop and use environmentally friendly practices throughout the
Gardens and Grounds department and make improvements to the site."



Feeding station at
Downing College

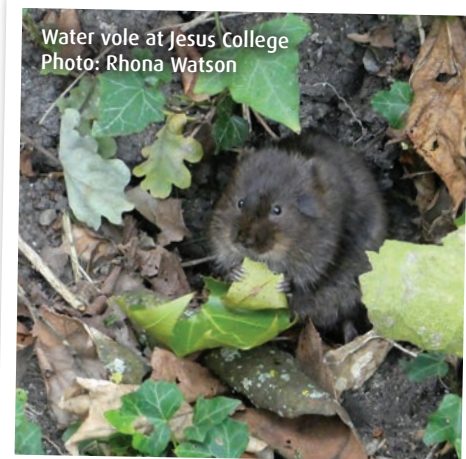


New wildflower meadow at Downing College



Jesus College Cambridge won the **Best Wildlife Sighting at Work** award, for its fabulous video footage of a resident water vole taking nesting material into its burrow, a truly rare sight. The judge also highly commended the College for its work in developing the site to encourage wildlife. New features such as a wildlife pond and more wildflower areas are perfect for encouraging different species into the grounds.

Paul Stearn, Head Gardener, said: "We are thrilled to receive this award as recognition not only for the hard work we put in towards attracting wildlife into the college but also highlight the huge variety of fauna and flora that we manage on site."



Water vole at Jesus College
Photo: Rhona Watson



Wildlife pond at Jesus College

Downing College won the category of **Best Use of Recycled Materials for Wildlife at Work**. Their beautifully crafted bug hotel perfectly shows that objects can not only be given a new lease of life, but can also be incredibly useful. The attractive structure would complement any outdoor space and will no doubt support a wide variety of insects.



Downing College's bug hotel

Darren Bast won **Best Wildlife Sighting at Granta Park** by employees

based on the site, with a stunning photo of an orange tip butterfly. He said: It's photo's like this that are worth the hours I put in walking around Granta Park and come back covered in bugs, leaves, twigs and mud!"



Orange tip butterfly
Photo: Darren Bast

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who entered.

THIS YEAR'S 30 DAYS WILD WAS OUR BIGGEST YET!

Getting close to nature has been proven to be good for us, and there's no reason that this shouldn't happen at work as well as at home. Every June we encourage workplaces, individuals, families and schools to sign up to do something wild every day throughout the month and we're delighted that so many people took part this year, including over 30 local businesses. Anglian Water and staff from Huntingdonshire District Council were among those who got out and about and shared pictures and experiences their staff had in wild places, and many more encouraged their staff to engage with nature by picnicking on their lunch break or

wearing something green on dress down Friday. We provided some extra resources this year to help businesses plan their Acts of Wildness. Did your company take part? We'd love to hear from you at 30DaysWild@wildlifebcn.org



#30DaysWild - Wild Pictures



MEMBER NEWS

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a major supplier of IT and other services to retail, banking and manufacturing industries, has nominated the Wildlife Trusts (UK wide) as their charity partner for the next two years. As part of this partnership, they have joined our Wildlife Trust as Corporate member at Investor level in order to encourage their staff to get involved with local wildlife. The key themes of this partnership will be engaging with nature for employee health and wellbeing. Over the next two years we will be encouraging them to get involved with our activities such as 30 Days Wild, wildlife gardening and fundraising challenges. We recently visited their Peterborough offices to launch this partnership, and are very much looking forward to inspiring and raising awareness amongst their staff over the next two years.

“Every two years TCS UK&I chooses a new corporate charity. The purpose is to raise awareness of a particular issue and encourage staff engagement, including fundraising. For 2019 onwards we have chosen **The Wildlife Trusts**.

Together we aim to give TCSers the opportunity to:

- Experience the joy of wildlife and wild spaces in our daily lives whilst occasionally switching off from our digitally connected world
- Help the Wildlife Trusts restore and protect living landscapes and create local communities where nature matters”

OUR LATEST NEW MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome **Jesus College, Cambridge**, which has recently joined the Trust as a Corporate Supporter member. The College has existed for over 500 years, and aims to offer students the advantages of the highest quality of education within a stimulating and supportive environment,

and to provide them with the widest range of opportunities. The college gardeners also work extremely hard to make the site attractive to wildlife and have plans to increase its native species planting, as evidenced by this year's Wildlife Gardening at Work award.

A BATTY EVENING

We recently enjoyed meeting some of our corporate members for networking and drinks at the Gonville Hotel before heading off for a bat safari with Scudamore's and our Wildlife Trust bat experts. Fortunately the rain held off as we drifted along the River Cam. At first, the bats (Common and Soprano Pipistrelle) flew close to the riverbank vegetation but gradually we were able to see them as well as 'detect' their frequencies using bat detectors. As we headed nearer to the meadows of Grantchester, we turned our dials down to hear the lower frequencies of the Noctule bat, and also glimpsed Daubenton's hunting along the surface of the river. As we headed back into Cambridge we were lucky to see the slightly rarer Serotine bat, which sounds rather like someone clapping randomly. It was fantastic to see everyone who attended, and we'll be running other events to meet members in the near future.



Bat punt
Photo: Glyn Pacan

You can book a 'batty business bash' punt with Scudamore's for your corporate team at www.wildlifebcn.org/bat-punts and remember that 50% of all proceeds go to our Wildlife Trust – so a great way to support local wildlife whilst discovering the bats and wildlife of the River cam.



BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

We'll be reporting back on our first ever music festival 'Cambourne to be Wild' in our next edition but we just wanted to say a huge thank you to our corporate sponsors for all their support for this Wildlife Trust fundraising event. If your company is interested in getting involved and/or supporting us for our next festival please get in touch with the corporate team corporate@wildlifebcn.org



Seeing beyond



In addition to our corporate members, we'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the many businesses who supported the Trust's work in a variety of ways during the 2018/19 financial year, from gifts in kind to donating a portion of their profits and booking Wild Work Days:

The Animal Experience, Blinds in Harmony, Cambridge Building Society, Cambridge Cheese Co, Cambridge Fencing, Cambridge Festival of Running, Cambridge Rambling Club, Canoe2, Carter Jonas, ClickASkip, Cotswold Outdoor, Decathlon, Dora Mouse, Elsworth Community Shop, Emmanuel College, Force36, Foxley Kingham, Fujifilm, Grosvenor Developments Ltd, Hydrock Consultants, Jesus College, Nationwide Building Society, Opticron, Pebble Fund, Redrow, SDC, Shepreth Wildlife Park, Siemens, St Neots St Mary's Rotary Club, Tesco, Trinity College, Trumpington Meadows Land Co Ltd, Unite Cambridge Medical Branch, Vine House Farm, Waresley Garden Centre, Whitbread, Wildlife Travel

MINERALS AND GRASSHOPPERS

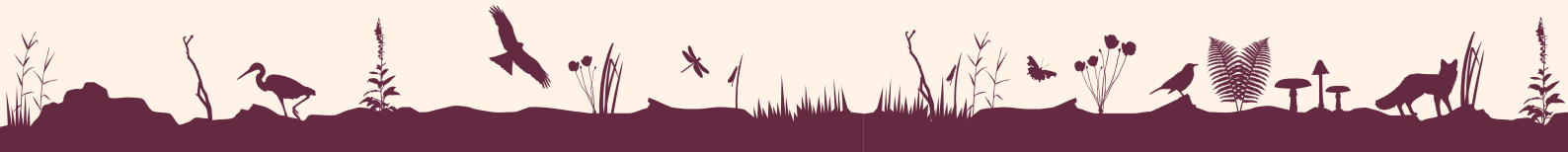
Protecting the environment is a top priority for all the staff at Corporate Investor member **Levin Sources**. As a social venture, the company is committed to driving sustainability in the minerals sector through their work for clients.

Levin Sources has recently finalised a report on Forest-Smart Mining to identify and analyse good and bad practices of mining in forest landscapes in order to find opportunities for positive intervention, and also became a signatory of the New York Declaration on Forests. Meanwhile, staff have enrolled in the Citizen Keepers Programme to help save Britain's grasshoppers from extinction by feeding them for several weeks and then releasing them into the wild. Through these actions the company is making a public commitment to protecting forests and safeguarding biodiversity in their operations and services. They encourage their colleagues,

partners, and wider community to become signatories of the Declaration, and to consider how they too – from whatever position they occupy – can lower their impacts on forests and biodiversity, and become champions for forest and biodiversity protection.



Meadow grasshopper
Photo: Margaret Holland



CONSERVATION NEWS



DREAM FUND

We recently received the wonderful news that our proposed collaborative wetland farming project “Water Works” has been awarded **£1 million** from the People’s Postcode Lottery Dream Fund.

Current widespread farming practice in the UK decimates one of our largest natural resources - soil. Every year in the Cambridgeshire Fens we lose the equivalent of 1,800 Olympic swimming pools of peat that we cannot replace, whilst 50% of CO₂ emitted by UK farming comes from lowland peat soil.

Working with our partners Cambridgeshire ACRE, the University of East London and the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, the two-year project will trial a new form of farming already successful in parts of Europe: wetland farming. With experienced academic and agricultural partners (including our own Great Fen team), sphagnum moss trials have commenced, which will pave the way for crops like typha, a type of bulrush used in fibreboard, and reed sweet-grass, a cereal crop historically used as a nutritious edible grain. We hope that this will demonstrate alternative, sustainable and wildlife-friendly ways to produce commercial food crops. Starting in the Cambridgeshire Fens, the project aims to bring long lasting benefits to communities and businesses in the whole area, including securing UNESCO’s prestigious Biosphere Reserve status.

Find out more about the project at wildlifebcn.org/news/water-works

A NEW ERA FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The changes that technology has wrought over the last 20 years across all aspects of life are amazing. We now think nothing of using phone apps to pay bills, book holidays or even turn on the heating. How very different from when our small forestry and environmental land management business was set up some 21 years ago. Some see the environment as the ultimate stable resource, unaffected by this level of change. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

Impacts resulting from intensive farming, largely driven by policy and subsidy structures, and ever mounting pressure for new housing, industry and infrastructure have had a real impact. We are now waking up to the fact that this is affecting our health, wellbeing and economic prosperity.

For the first time in my career, we are beginning to see a fundamental shift in how the natural environment is perceived and valued. The recent publication of the Government’s *Our Green Future: A 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment* sets a framework for all of us in the sector to make a real difference.



Female banded demoiselle damselfly
Photo: Louise Fox



To mark our 20th year, **Lockhart Garratt** wanted to set out our clear vision for the future. In consultation with our team we settled on: *"To see land used in a sustainable way making best use of available natural resources"*. Change will inevitably hold some challenges, but we are already starting to see strategic thinking and policy setting out the framework, with clear commitment in the Clean Growth and Clean Air strategies and the anticipated mandating of Environmental Net Gain for all new development.

As Lockhart Garratt enters its third decade we are seeing a fundamental change in our understanding of the natural environment and its value to both economic prosperity and health and wellbeing. We welcome the challenge of working to deliver the real benefits that will flow from the sustainable and innovative management of our natural environment.

Lockhart Garratt has been supporting the work of the Wildlife Trust BCN through corporate membership for over 15 years.

Author:

John Lockhart is Chairman of Lockhart Garratt environmental planning and forestry consultancy specialising in strategic woodland management, environmental planning and development and green infrastructure. John can be contacted by emailing john.lockhart@lgeluk.com.

HELP LOCAL WILDLIFE BY FUNDRAISING TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE WILDLIFE TRUST

If you'd like to raise money to help local wildlife but don't quite know how to go about it, then look no further. Cake sales at work are always popular and here's your step-by-step guide

Before

1. Pick a date when most people will be at work
2. Ask friends and colleagues to bake a cake then remind them just before the day!
3. Create a simple poster to say you're raising funds for the Wildlife Trust and suggest a price per slice of cake
4. Find out if your company will matchfund the money that you raise

On Cake Sale Day

5. Send an email to your team/department/all staff on the morning of the cake sale
6. Lay out the cakes on plates, napkins and money pot, plus a label for each cake

7. Keep an eye out that it still looks tidy and remove the money often
8. Share photos on social media (and remember to tag us in (see <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/social-media>))

After the Event

9. Email everyone to say how much was raised and thank them for supplying and buying!
10. Send us the proceeds. You can make a bank transfer – email corporate@wildlifebcn.org for our account details, or you could post a cheque made payable to the Wildlife Trust BCN. Call us on 01954 713500 to make the payment by card.

Don't forget we'd love to see photos so we can share with other supporters!



Photo: Bianca Rush

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 27 July 2019

Butterfly walk with an expert at Sharpenhoe Clappers, Bedford. 10.00am-12.30pm, suitable for all the family and just £2 each. Email flitvale.info@gmail.com

Fridays 30 August, 6 and 13 September 2019

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

Fridays until 20 September and Saturdays 6 July to 21 September 2019

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

Saturday 12 October 2019

Join our staff, trustees and fellow members at this year's AGM at Clay Farm Centre in Cambridge. All members are eligible to vote at the meeting - email corporate@wildlifebcn.org for more information.

Photo: David Joyner



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