



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

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

ISSUE 45 WINTER 2019

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WILDLIFE AT WORK

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Cover image taken and kindly supplied by Jon Hawkins – Surrey Hills Photography



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.

FROM BLACK TO GREEN

Black Friday and Cyber Monday are widely recognised, and often covered by news stories of overexcited shoppers looking for the greatest bargains amid ever-growing consumerism. But did you know about **Giving Tuesday?**

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving - a powerful opportunity to engage your employees in the causes that matter to them and be a force for good. With supporters such as Bill and Melinda Gates, it clearly has a big vision and enormous potential to encourage people to make a positive difference. This year's date is **3rd December**.

Find information and resources at www.givingtuesday.org.uk/business and perhaps you could use it to support the work of our charity the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants?

AmazonSmile an easy way to support wildlife

It's simple: Amazon donates a percentage of the purchase price of your goods, so it won't cost you a penny to benefit local wildlife.

All you need to do is start shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk and choose the Wildlife Trust BCN as your charity. It's also available in the Amazon Shopping App to all customers using Android devices; here's how to start generating donations:

- 1 If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.
- 2 View Settings and select AmazonSmile, then follow the in App instructions to complete the process.

We are extremely grateful to Corporate member Tata Consultancy Services which has chosen the Wildlife Trust as its Charity of the Year. Please do bear us in mind if you have similar workplace schemes!



WILDLIFE IN FOCUS - BEHIND THE LENS

In October we attended the Cambridgeshire Photography Show at the Guildhall, Cambridge, hosted by our corporate member **Campkins Cameras**. Russ from the corporate team joined colleagues Laurie and Henry on the Trust's stand and enjoyed talking with many of our supporters. A large selection of imaging and optical manufacturers were also present, including our friends **Opticron** and **Fujifilm UK**. Throughout the day a programme of guest speakers covered

a wide range of photographic topics, including Henry's well-received focus on trailcams and how and where to use them. The show was a great success and demonstrated the growing passion for imaging and wildlife in the region, and we thank Campkins for inviting us to such an interesting event. We look forward to developing our co-events and engaging more people soon, so watch this space.



Cambridgeshire Photography Show exhibitors
Photo: Campkins Cameras



The show floor
Photo: Campkins Cameras

PHOTO COMPETITION FOR 2021 CALENDAR



Our annual Wildlife Photography competition is now open, and this fourth year is bigger and better than ever! The competition and subsequent calendar celebrates the natural world of our three counties in the still image, and encourages you to go out and discover. In keeping with this aim, this year's theme is "local gems". The best shots entered will form our 2021 calendar, with all funds raised from sales going directly to providing for and protecting local wildlife and greenspaces.

We are delighted that **Fujifilm UK Ltd**, the photographic specialists, are sponsors again and donating the fantastic winner's prize: £1,500 worth of their goods. Our partner **Opticron** is kindly providing prizes for second and third place.

Find out more and how to enter by visiting our website wildlifebcn.org/photocomp

FUJIFILM
Value from Innovation



MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CORPORATE MEMBERS

Corporate Supporter Enchanted Cinema

Providing fabulous outdoor cinema experiences since 2015, Enchanted Cinema hosted its first open-air event in Cambridge and has gone from strength to strength bringing together great film, local food and music in a stunning setting.



William Morrish, founder, said "We are proud to be a sponsor of the WildlifeTrust BCN. Given the wildlife and climate crisis that face us, we must all do our bit to help prevent the continued loss of wildlife and their habitats. We will be using our platform to bring current issues onto the big screen and promote social, communal change through the art of cinema, from films and fundraisers to documentaries and talks. Expect big, exciting, enchanting things from this collaboration".

In August we joined Enchanted Cinema for a special event in the lovely grounds of **The Gonville Hotel**, one of our Corporate Investor members. The Wildlife Trusts' Wilder Future film narrated by David Attenborough was shown, and Becky Green, from the Wildlife Trust BCN, and Claudia Galelli from The Gonville shared a few words with the audience about the work, and value of supporting, the Wildlife Trust.

www.enchantedcinema.co.uk www.gonvillehotel.co.uk
www.wildlifebcn.org/wilder-future



Photo: Russ Waldron

Vauxhall Motors Ltd partners with the Wildlife Trust

We are pleased to announce that Vauxhall Motors Ltd has recently joined as a Corporate Investor Member. They approached our Wildlife Trust as they wanted advice on how to



VAUXHALL

increase wildlife habitat, implement some wildlife friendly initiatives and increase awareness about chalk grassland amongst employees at their manufacturing plant in Luton. This is part of their commitment to working together to increase wildlife habitat on their corporate land and enhance corporate sustainability.

Globally, chalk grassland is only found in north-west Europe, and a significant proportion of this is in the southern counties of England (e.g. Dorset, Sussex, Wiltshire), but it does occur in Bedfordshire. It's also very fragmented, and of international conservation importance.

Up to 40 species of flowering plants can be found in one metre square of chalk grassland, also called lowland calcareous grassland, and many species grow nowhere else, including beautiful orchids and wildflowers. Chalk grassland has declined significantly over the last 50 years due mostly to changes in agriculture and development, and in Bedfordshire and Luton now only occurs mostly on the steep slopes of the Chiltern Hills and in isolated pockets, such as embankments and along road and rail cuttings.

With guidance from our Wildlife Trust, an area has been identified to implement and develop a biodiversity project for the first time at Vauxhall's Luton Plant. Vauxhall's aspiration, at this time, is to divide the area into two, where one side will





contain Buddleia amongst other plants and the other will have scattered areas of bare chalk soil. This will allow burrowing insects to access the bare chalk banks and many species of invertebrates, including butterflies, to take the nectar from the Buddleia. Over time, these habitats will develop and change and we hope to see more species arriving. The education purpose is to increase awareness amongst the staff at the site about the chalk grasslands, which is an area that is relatively unknown by most people.

For further information about the chalk grasslands in Bedfordshire see www.wildlifebcn.org/living-landscapes/north-chilterns-chalk and for Vauxhall Motors Ltd visit www.vauxhall.co.uk



TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER

Your corporate membership has a huge impact on what the Trust can do for local wildlife, improving green spaces for everyone to enjoy. Just how much of a difference you've made is brought into focus every time you renew your subscription and we see how many years of continued support you've given. Many corporate members have been with us for a whopping **ten years or more...** so we'd like to celebrate all these companies:

Anglian Water Services Ltd

Arqiva Ltd

Athene Communications

Cambridge Econometrics Ltd

Cambridge University Press

Cambridge Water Company

Cemex

Centrica (Peterborough Power Station)

Colpac Ltd

Cranfield University

Gardenworks Tree Surgery Ltd

Greens of Soham

Hewitsons

The Jordans & Ryvita Company Ltd

Lockhart Garratt Ltd

The Marshall Group of Companies

Perkins Engines Co Ltd

Prologis UK Ltd

Richard Buxton Environmental & Public Law

RWE Generation UK

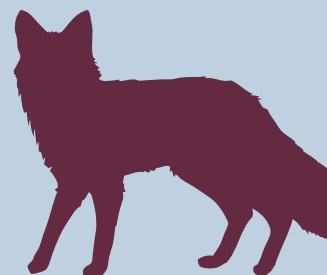
Scott Bader

Spendlove Contracting

Tarmac

Unilever Research Colworth

Whittlebury Park LLP



CONSERVATION IMPACT

The recent State of Nature Report has highlighted how wildlife is continuing to decline drastically. A shocking 15% of species across Great Britain are now threatened with extinction. It's hoped that the new Environment Act will help map a Nature Recovery Network so that wildlife can flourish once again, and conservation charities such as the Wildlife Trust are striving to turn things around for wildlife and habitats. In his recent blog, our CEO Brian Eversham shares how our Trust is making a real difference at sites such as the Nene Wetlands in Northamptonshire and Totternhoe in Bedfordshire: www.wildlifebcn.org/blog/brian-eversham/state-nature-turning-corner-or-being-undermined.

Trumpington Meadows also brings news of what your support is helping us to achieve. This 57 hectare nature reserve in Cambridgeshire is one of our youngest reserves but continues to mature and benefit more and more diverse and vulnerable wildlife.

Thanks to ongoing management and conservation provisions, the flower meadows, grasslands, reedbeds, woodland and riverside paths have been giving nature a much-needed helping hand. This year has seen many successful projects and conservation highs.

Swift boxes and audio call speakers were installed onto the rangers' building last year, with help from Action for Swifts. This year, cameras were added in early Spring before the swifts arrived back from their wintering grounds in Africa. They duly returned in good numbers and scouted out the boxes, settling in over a few weeks and giving us our first footage of swifts and their chicks on the nest. Over the remainder of summer the birds successfully bred and fledged three broods, and will hopefully return next year.



Releasing Nora
Photo: Paul Wyrer

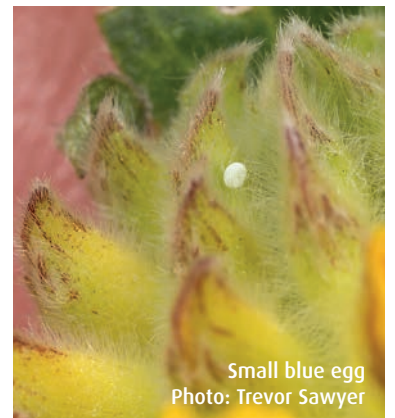


Small blue
Photo: Paul Wyrer

On the mixed flower meadows increasing records of the localised and rare small blue butterfly have been a very welcome new sight. Found throughout the UK and Ireland but declining in most areas, south-central England contains a number of their remaining territories.

Living in small colonies, these are usually confined to small patches of sheltered, chalky grassland with its sole foodplant Kidney vetch, which is also present thanks to the effective meadow management including annual cuts and removal, and grazing. This year egg laying was also recorded and is hopefully an indication of viable breeding populations onsite.

www.wildlifebcn.org/nature-reserves/trumpington-meadows



Small blue egg
Photo: Trevor Sawyer

Hedgehogs are one of our most iconic and well-loved mammals yet are in steep decline across the UK. However, the mixed habitats and corridors at Trumpington Meadows are ideal territories, and this led to Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital requesting to release rehabilitated hedgehogs onto the reserve. The Wildlife Trust was naturally very happy to help and the first controlled release was made successfully in September. Trail cameras are monitoring activities, and Trumpington Meadows is committed to helping with more releases from Shepreth in the future.



CLIMB, CAMP, CANOE

A packed weekend of wildlife and adventure was at risk due to bad weather in August, but luckily the wind dropped and the fun began. 20 adults and children set up camp in our education area at the Nene Wetlands before heading to Rock Up for a climbing session. After dinner the group helped to set up a moth trap before setting off on a bat walk around the lake. Before bedding down for the night they toasted marshmallows over the camp fire, learned about Kelly kettles and had a go at painting with light. The following morning they enjoyed pond dipping and moth identification before joining Canoe2 for a canoeing session on the lake. Due to its success, we intend to make this an annual event and may offer similar weekends for adults.

Discover upcoming nature-led activities at www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/activity-centres



All photos: Katie King



“Our children loved finding creatures and listening to and seeing the bats at night”

HELPING GARDEN WILDLIFE OVER WINTER

For anyone wanting to make their garden more wildlife friendly, we share some advice from our friends at **Vine House Farm**:

This is an important time to help a host of different species and classes of animal to get through the winter. Some species hibernate, but for others – and certainly for all species of garden bird - it's largely about getting enough food and shelter to ensure body weight is maintained and therefore surviving to breed in spring. These are our top pointers to consider:

1. Clean out and put up nest boxes

If you already have bird boxes, it's important to clean them out for the breeding season ahead. Most birds such as blue and great tits won't use them if last year's nest is there, and great tit species will often start to look for a breeding territory as early as January. If you don't have any boxes, now's the time to get a couple! For which type and where to put them, plus a great short video, go to www.vinehousefarm.co.uk/nest-boxes

2. Keep feeding the birds

The further we get into winter, the further natural supplies of food are depleted. Even a short spell of very cold weather can prove fatal for small birds as they may struggle to find enough food even to keep warm enough to get through the long nights. Providing the right type of foods in conjunction with the right feeders can make a huge difference to songbird survival rates. Of course, the more birds that survive the

winter the more that go on to breed in spring. To understand the ideal mix of foods and feeders, watch the video at www.vinehousefarm.co.uk/attracting-wild-birds.

3. Hedgehogs need help in milder weather

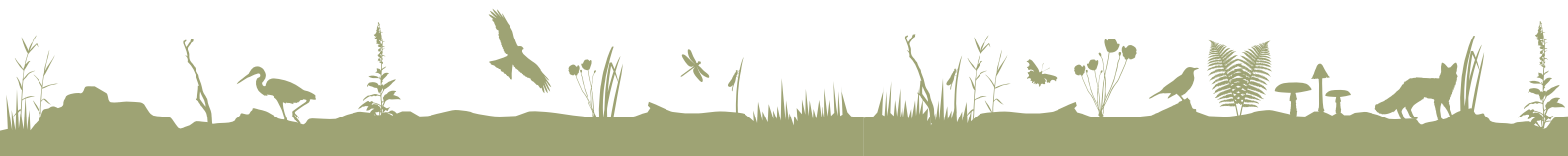
Unlike birds, hedgehogs need help when the weather is unusually mild in winter. When it remains cold, they will hibernate until about mid-March but with the winters we now more typically get, big fluctuations in temperature see sudden and prolonged spells of very mild weather bringing hedgehogs out of hibernation and there's very little natural food for them such as slugs and worms. So if the weather is mild and you know hedgehogs visit or live in your garden, provide the right food and, very importantly, a dish of clean water.

4. Look out for winter bird migrants

The chaffinch, blackbird and robin come from northern Europe for the winter months (although many are now resident all year round), plus species which don't breed in the UK (or rarely and in very small numbers), such as fieldfare and redwing which can be attracted by putting apples on the ground.



©Nicholas Watts



SAVE THE DATE

Friday 29 November 2019

Christmas Shopping at the Manor House, Cambourne from 3.00-6.30pm. Join us for mulled wine and mince pies, with fun for all the family. Lovely gifts available to purchase including insect houses, art, binoculars and pottery creations. Free admission.

Thursday 16 January 2020

Gordon Buchanan: Animal Families and Me 7.00-10.00pm

A show for any wildlife enthusiast, with spell-binding stories of the natural world. wildlifebcn.org/events

19 & 20 June 2020

Cambourne to be Wild Festival

Save the date for our second family-friendly festival in Cambourne. Live music, food and drink, family activities and more.



Gordon Buchanan
Photo: Graham Macfarlane

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

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• The Biodiversity Consultancy



• Prologis UK Ltd

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- Scudamore's Punting Company
- Tata Consultancy Services
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- Tarmac • University of Northampton • Wellcome Genome Campus
- Wesley Coe • Whittlebury Park • Willowbrook Construction

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