



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

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

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WILDLIFE GARDENING AT WORK AWARDS 2020

Open for
entries!

Celebrate your wildlife at work through our Wildlife Gardening at Work Awards.

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 needs your help more than ever – especially given the declining numbers of insects and pollinators. Every action you take is a step towards helping wildlife thrive, and it's also a great way to get colleagues working together on a fun and relaxed project, improving morale at work.

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

- **Best Wildlife Sighting at Work**
- **Best Home for Wildlife**
- **Best Wildlife Garden** sponsored by



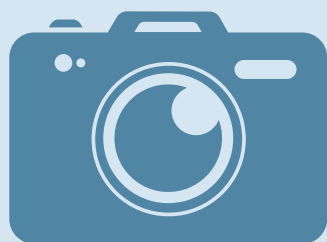
You can enter all or just one of the categories.



Wildlife pond at Jesus College

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 in a team effort 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 15 May 2020** and the awards will be judged by Bernard Hunt from Hunts Wildlife Landscapes. Good Luck!



Our **Wildlife Photography Competition** is open for entries until 13 April. It's free to enter and open to anyone with pictures of wildlife or wild places taken in Beds, Cambs or Northants; the theme is 'Local Gems'. Thanks to sponsorship from **Fujifilm UK** and the support of **Opticron**, there are some great prizes on offer, and winning entries will be featured in our 2021 calendar. Please help us spread the word! Download and print the poster from wildlifebcn.org/photocomp



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Cover image: Juvenile red kite in Northants taken by Daniel Hauck

Contact Us

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

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Helen Daniel, Corporate Partnerships Officer
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Clea Tanner, Corporate Partnerships Officer
01954 713 557 or clea.tanner@wildlifebcn.org



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Ciconi prints *Wildlife at Work* on paper that has had the equivalent amount of CO₂ generated from its production and distribution captured by planting trees in the UK.



CELEBRATE THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IN STYLE

Join us for live music, wild activities and family fun – all in support of local wildlife

Following on from the success of our first ever music festival last year, we are pleased to announce **Cambourne to be Wild** will be back on 19 and 20 June. Last year a host of companies supported us through sponsorship, donations and in-kind support as well as coming along to join in the fun.

Go Wild – this year the festival is part of The Wildlife Trusts' nationwide celebration of nature called the Big Wild Weekend where all over the UK there are events taking place to raise awareness of wildlife. We're sure our festival will be one of the highlights with a big mix of nature themed activities including talks and guided walks. Coinciding with the longest day of the year, this is the perfect opportunity to go wild!



Cambourne to be Wild
Credit: Andy Abbott

A great line up of bands and fabulous food and drink – including **AbbaChique** putting on the glamour

and glitz of a real ABBA concert. With a powerful stage presence full of energy and fun, you'll feel as if you were back in the 1970s. There's also Nick Corney and the Buzz Rats, a cracking new band from Peterborough who are making a serious impression on the local music scene, local rock legends Blue Thunder plus lots more. We'll also have a great mixture of food stalls, drink, ice cream and local stallholders plus our own wonderful wildlife themed nature shop.

If your company is interested in supporting the festival, contact Clea Tanner on 01954 713557 or email Clea.Tanner@wildlifebcn.org. All proceeds will support our vital conservation work helping nature's recovery in your local area.
www.wildlifebcn.org/camwild



Credit: Sophie Baker

30 Days Wild is back this June, and better than ever. Do a little something wild to get connected to nature even when you're at work! Sign up online from mid-April for a FREE pack sent in the post, full of resources and ideas specifically for the workplace, no matter how big or small your company is. Plan a picnic lunch on the grass or an outdoor meeting, plant a windowbox or organise a fundraising wildlife bake – there's plenty of time to plan your wild month and lots of support on offer. Find out more: **wildlifebcn.org/30DaysWild**

CAMBOURNE 10K – RUN FOR WILDLIFE!

If you love to run, why not enter the 10k Business Challenge on Sunday 5 April 2020? The route passes through our stunning Cambourne nature reserve, and you can help raise funds for wildlife at the same time by asking your friends and family to sponsor you. Email helen.daniel@wildlifebcn.org or call 01954 713560 for further information.



MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CORPORATE MEMBERS

We're thrilled that **ZEISS UK**, the multinational optics and optoelectronics manufacturer, has become a Corporate Investor member. Having recently relocated their UK Headquarters to Cambourne close to our main office, we are already collaborating with our new neighbours to raise awareness about protecting local wildlife and connecting people with nature. They kindly sponsored our Cambourne to be Wild Festival last year and we've just held our first joint event.



Seeing beyond

Adam Kidman, Stakeholder and Partnership Management, explained why the company decided to join us: "ZEISS UK are delighted to become Corporate Investor Members of The Wildlife Trust BCN. Following our recent relocation to Cambourne, and with there being such obvious synergy between our two organisations, we very much look forward to working collaboratively with the Wildlife Trust through joint activities and initiatives, and supporting the fantastic work that they undertake."



ZEISS at Cambourne nature reserve
Credit: Clea Tanner

On a cold and windy day in February we had the opportunity to show some of their ambassadors and guests around our Cambourne nature reserve. TV wildlife presenter, Simon King, and our CEO, Brian Eversham, inspired everyone with fascinating presentations about the value of engaging with nature, followed by some guided walks around the reserve to look at the wildlife and see why Cambourne is an exemplar of how housing developments can benefit both wildlife and people.

Northamptonshire based retailer **Appletree & Avalon** has generously chosen us as their charity partner and also joined the Wildlife Trust as a Corporate Supporter member.

The company's founder told us: "As we're based in Northamptonshire, we wanted to directly support our local Wildlife Trust where there is a clear synergy in our ethos and vision to help protect and restore our wonderful wildlife and wild places. This also means we can be more effective and hands on to make a real difference protecting vital habitats for wildlife and continue inspiring people to help nature's recovery for all generations now and in the future".

Selling only UK manufactured environmentally friendly products, this independent company shares our values and it's fantastic that they've decided to support local wildlife by joining the Trust.

Appletree & Avalon



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FARMING

Seventy per cent of land in the UK is farmed in some way. The extreme intensification of farming, along with widespread urbanisation, has been incredibly damaging to our local wildlife and especially some species of farmland birds and essential pollinators. Farmers have a responsibility to support wildlife to ensure that farming becomes more sustainable.

The Wildlife Trust BCN, together with our fellow Trusts, is working to help alleviate the impact that farming has had on wildlife up to this point. We employ a range of environmental land management strategies including conservation grazing; influencing agricultural policy and working directly with farmers to provide advice on wildlife friendly farming.

For example, through two UK wide partnerships we work with **Jordans Cereals** and **Vine House Farm** who show excellent commitment to wildlife.

“Jordans has supported wildlife friendly farming for over 30 years and by working with The Wildlife Trusts, we know that we’re doing this in the best way possible. Every Jordans farmer works with an expert advisor from their local trust to make sure at least 10% of their land is dedicated to wildlife. This



Jordans farmer, Stephen Honeywood, with a Wildlife Trust advisor



Wildflower margin at Vine House Farm
Credit: Nick Watts

means we protect around 4,600ha of habitat for barn owls, brown hares, turtle doves and vital bees and pollinators.”
Mia Hartwell, Sustainability Manager at Jordans Cereals.

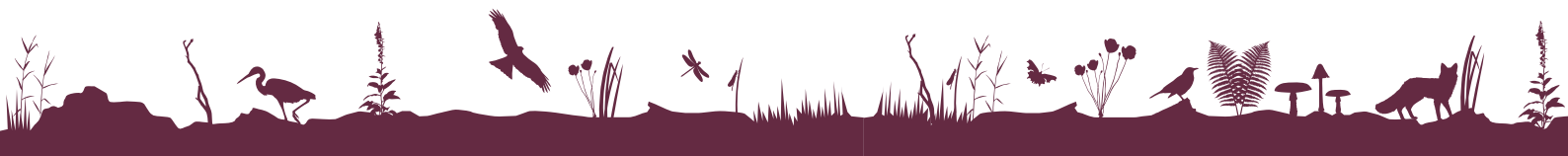
Nicholas Watts, Director of Vine House Farm, told us: “Realising how fast our farmland birds were declining worried me, so for the last 30 years I have been farming in wildlife friendly ways... digging ponds, planting hedges, establishing 25 km of 6m wildflower margins, erecting nestboxes and of course feeding birds. Vine House Farm is now buzzing with birds!”

All these practices are prime examples of how to create essential habitat for wildlife while maintaining a productive farm. These methods help to create green corridors which act as links between pre-existing woodlands, lakes and other habitats and encourage wildlife to recolonise and thrive across the countryside.

Over the next two years *Water Works* will be creating field scale trials of wetland farming at the Wildlife Trust’s Great Fen. This innovative project, funded by the People’s Postcode Lottery Dream Fund, will be testing new crops for food, healthcare and industry and helping to lock in carbon to the peatlands of the Great Fen. A significant part of the project will be working with local farmers, food producers and landowners to create and test different ways of farming on the Fen and share lessons along the way. Furthermore it will be developing an application to UNESCO to gain Biosphere status for the Fens and elevating them to a global network of biospheres.

Great Fen Restoration Manager Lorna Parker said: “The *Water Works* project could be truly transformative for future generations farming in the Fens, creating new sources of income for farmers, protecting food supplies and the natural environment, and combatting climate change.”

For more information see wildlifebcn.org/news/water-works



SHOP ETHICALLY - HELP WILDLIFE

By shopping with companies that put wildlife and the environment at the heart of their business, it's easy for you to make a difference without it costing you anything extra. Whether at work or at home, purchase power can see small steps add up to big changes – here are a few suggestions.



Why not take a more sustainable approach to presents for the next birthday or anniversary on your calendar? Gift experiences allow you to offer lasting joyful memories as well as being more ethical in so many ways. You can skip the rolls of often unrecyclable wrapping paper and avoid adding more unwanted gifts and materials to landfill. Our partners **Canoe2** and **Scudamore's Punting** both offer excellent opportunities for a fun time out on the water, creating a day with a splash to remember. And what better way to share your enjoyment of water-dwelling wildlife than getting up close in a canoe or a punt and sharing the treat with a friend. See back page for dates and contact details.

ETHICAL GOODS



The founder of **Appletree & Avalon** tells us why ethical shopping is a priority issue:

"We have undoubtedly become a nation short of time, searching for convenience and looking for simplified ways of getting through our day to day lives. This has sadly meant that we now rely on low cost goods and lead an ever-increasing throwaway lifestyle. Appletree & Avalon is the first exclusively UK-made and eco-friendly independent retailer and provides simple everyday alternatives to its customers. We work with small businesses and artisans across the UK who solely manufacture in this country, meaning that we can maintain a low carbon footprint and provide a service like no other because we aren't importing goods from



Benefit wildlife
by choosing the
Wildlife Trust BCN
when shopping at
smile.amazon.co.uk

Bat safari
Credit: Martin Bond



WILD TRAVEL



When you're looking for your next holiday, why not use a company committed to responsible travelling?

Donating all its profit to The Wildlife Trusts, **Wildlife Travel** has been raising money for nature conservation since 1988. Their group holidays are for people who enjoy wildlife at a relaxed pace, with comfortable travel and expert leaders. From Devon to the Galapagos, the Alps to Costa Rica, this ethical company will take you to some of the finest wildlife

destinations while also supporting the work of your local Wildlife Trust.



All flights are fully offset through a certified carbon scheme, and there are also some fantastic flight-free holidays travelling by train. For more information visit www.wildlife-travel.co.uk or email wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org.

And of course, don't forget to buy your bird food and accessories from wildlife friendly vinehousefarm.co.uk

Appletree & Avalon

abroad and everything is done by hand. We not only give back to our economy but through our partners and our own efforts, we give back to nature and our planet." appletreeandavalon.co.uk

Our Wildlife Trust shop at the Nene Wetlands Visitor Centre at Rushden Lakes also stocks an excellent range of ethical products and sustainable gifts. There is currently a particular focus on reducing plastic waste with a whole host of bamboo products including stylish reusable bamboo cups and lunchboxes, and the wide range of beautiful greetings cards is wrapped in biodegradable cellophane. You can find out more about these sustainable products and many more at shop.wildlifebcn.org.



Credit: Appletree & Avalon

SUSTAINABLE PRINTING



Our printing partner **Ciconi** explains the strides they have made to make their printing business more sustainable: "We have seen a sharp rise in demand from clients for quality print with a lower environmental impact. The use of our energy-efficient inkjet printers in combination with certified paper stocks from well-managed forests and recycled sources is the most eco-friendly way of meeting this. We are now looking to further expand our inkjet fleet in anticipation of further growth in 'greener' printing."

ciconi

We would like to thank Ciconi for producing this eye-catching newsletter as part of their generous support for the Wildlife Trust BCN. It's important to us that our newsletters are printed sustainably. www.ciconi.co.uk

STAY INFORMED

There are so many resources available online to help you navigate the complex world of ethical shopping and with so many options available it's often hard to find trustworthy information to guide our decisions. Try using websites like ethicalconsumer.org and thegoodshoppingguide.com to help yourself make responsible and well-informed decisions when you shop.



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 23 April 2020

The Butterfly Brothers, Ramsey Heights 7.00-9.30pm

As seen on TV, this cheerful duo will inspire you to create space for wildlife in your garden. A fun evening with cheese, wine and seeds included. wildlifebcn.org/events



19 & 20 June 2020

Cambourne to be Wild Festival

Save the date for this exciting mix of live music, family-friendly activities plus good food and drink. wildlifebcn.org/camwild

Saturdays 11, 18 and 25 April 2020

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

15 May-26 Sept 2020

Scudamore's Bat Punt Safaris

The hugely popular and widely acclaimed bat spotting punting trip season is nearly here! Come and experience an enchanting evening on the river Cam hosted by a Wildlife Trust guide. Fridays and Saturday dates available: scudamores.com/bat-safari-punting

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU to our corporate member **Ciconi**, which has kindly produced this newsletter as part of their support for The Wildlife Trust BCN. For all your design, print and mailing needs, please visit www.ciconi.co.uk

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