

Celebrating 60 years





NEWSLETTER





Jo SmithChief Executive
Officer



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On the cover

The first ever newsletter cover from 1962 Wilder Derbyshire magazine is only made possible thanks to your continued and generous support

Editor: Joanne Carnell
Design: Hammer Design
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Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Registered Charity Number 222212
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is a company registered in England and Wales
Company Number 715675

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Celebrating 60 Years!

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust! How fortunate we are that those who went before us cared enough to create such an important organisation. Our 60th anniversary is a great reminder that we must ensure a wilder Derbyshire for those who will come after us.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was founded in 1962 as the 'Derbyshire Naturalists' Trust, to oppose plans to tip fly ash in South Derbyshire, and quickly followed by the acquisition of our first nature reserve; Overdale. Over the past 60 years the Trust has grown substantially from a small group of wildlife enthusiasts into a well-respected conservation organisation.

As the Trust has grown, we have grown in our ability to campaign more effectively and fight harder than ever before for nature's recovery and for a wilder future. Today, you are helping us to fight against the badger cull, and the illegal killing of our birds of prey. You are helping us to rewild our uplands and our cities and towns.

Together, we are also providing new opportunities for communities to connect with wildlife to benefit their happiness and wellbeing; including our exciting plans to rewild Allestree Park to create the largest urban rewilding initiative in the UK. Your membership is also ensuring we can reintroduce lost species. We have recently reintroduced beavers, but we want to see many more lost species return, including Pine Martens, Red Squirrels, Osprey and so much more! In our 60th year we also want to return to our roots; by establishing new active groups; just like those individuals who fought so hard for wildlife in Derbyshire back in 1962! We want to create and support a whole series of groups; people who will drive nature's recovery and ensure a wilder future. Watch out for more information on how you can get involved.

In our 60th anniversary year, we are putting renewed energy into restoring our landscapes, protecting our wildlife and connecting more people with the joy of nature. I very much hope that 60 years from now, people will look back and see now as a turning point; a point at which the decline of nature started to reverse.

Thank you for your support!

FEATURES



- **8** State of Nature Report
- **12** Nature Recovery Mapping
- **14 Spring Wildflowers**
- 16 Local Actions

4 News

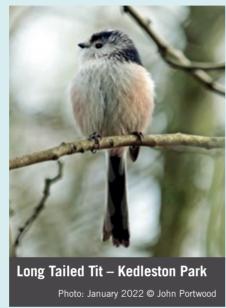
- 18 60 Years of DWT
- **20** Urban Connections
- 24 Swift Project
- **26** Working for Nature Trainees
- **28 Nature Connectedness**
- **32** Biodiversity Net Gain

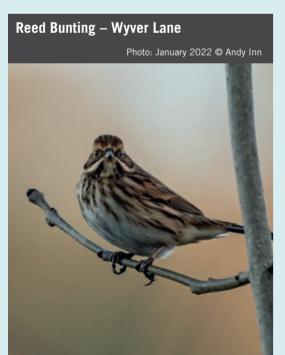


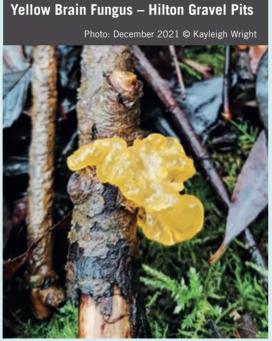
7 DERBYSHIRE NEWS

SPOTTED Share your images with us www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting









Nature Recovery Motion

On February 2nd councillors from Derbyshire County Council voted to adopt a nature recovery motion that recognised the scale of the biodiversity crisis and committed the local authority to manage at least 30% of council-owned land for the benefit of wildlife by 2030.

The motion was written by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and ratified by the council after a huge effort from our supporters. More than 1400 people wrote to their county councillor to ask them to adopt the nature recovery motion, and without your action there's no guarantee it would have gained cross-party support.

Unfortunately, some of the key targets were watered down by councillors before passing the motion, including:

- The removal of key targets around woodlands and tree planting
- Weakening targets around planning and developments
- The removal of targets around local resident's and health and wellbeing



We're really pleased that the motion has passed – it shows that the Council understand that nature needs to be at the heart of the tackling the climate crisis. But we're extremely frustrated that some of the key targets we proposed, which are in line with national commitments set by the Government, were removed.

Although several individual councillors expressed concern at these omissions, Councillor Barry Lewis justified the changes on the grounds that as the council are preparing a natural capital and biodiversity strategy for Derbyshire, it was not appropriate to set individual targets without understanding the baseline that this will set out.

We now look forward to working with the county council to ensure that the remaining targets adopted in the motion are met, and we'll keep you up to date with how that develops.

1000th Badger Vaccinated

Last year was a landmark moment in Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's badger vaccination programme with the vaccination of our 1000th Badger. Despite COVID restrictions, lockdowns and the poor end-of-summer weather, the team of staff and volunteers refused to be held back, vaccinating an incredible 278 badgers this season, bringing the total to well over 1200.

At the writing of this article, cull numbers for the 2021 season had not been published, but culling continued across Derbyshire. In 2020 almost 3000 badgers were trapped and shot as part of the government funded culling scheme. Licences across England would allow up to

75,930 to be killed in 2021, so the outlook for one of our most iconic and important mammals is bleak. Despite the government announcing no new cull licences will be issued from 2023, current licences run until 2025, and culling could continue for considerably

This year will be our 9th year of badger vaccinations, and our vaccination team remain committed to leading the way in encouraging others to start vaccination. We also continue to lobby the government and DEFRA for changes to their policy, stressing bTB is a cattlebased disease and should be treated with cattle vaccines and appropriate cattle movement control.



Spring 2022 Wilder Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE NEWS*

Beaver News

Since the release of two adult pairs of beavers at Willington Wetlands Nature Reserve in late September 2021 we have been keeping a close eye on how they have settled in and the changes they have been making to the site. Beavers are commonly known as eco-system engineers for the changes they like to make to the habitat they live in and our beavers have been no exception. Within days we started to find many of the telltale field signs that showed us all 4 beavers were exploring the whole site and finding out where the best places to eat and sleep were. What is great to see is that each pair seem to be staying together and closely around the parts of the reserve where they were released. None of our beavers had met before the reintroduction and whilst on paper each adult pair looked a great match we weren't sure if the chemistry would be there in person! Fortunately they have all settled really well with no fighting or falling out over who gets to live where. The snow before Christmas made the discovery of scent mounds - piles of earth that are made by the beavers and sprayed with urine and castoreum to mark their territories - much easier and we were able to map a number of them using



GIS technology. We have also been busy logging the locations of feeding areas, caches of food and possible attempts at lodge building. So far there are no signs of any dams being made but with so much deep, still water already on site this will not be a priority for them. The exciting part in spring 2022 will be waiting to see if either of the pairs have mated over the winter and if they will have kits. Any babies will be due in late May or early June, so keep checking in with our dedicated section of the website for regular updates!

https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/explore/ projects/all-about-beavers

COP26 - A Wilder Future

Our autumn Wilder Derbyshire issue included articles on COP26 the Conference of the Parties. Leaders from the 197 nations gathered in Glasgow along with climate experts, campaigners and the public. David Attenborough, Leonardo DiCaprio and the Wildlife Trusts' CEO Craig Bennett were all in attendance to varying degrees of acclaim.

The conference became a real focal point for campaigners and with real leadership from local communities and citizens pushing for naturebased solutions to the crisis. Here in Derbyshire over thousands of people took one or more actions for wildlife, such as planting wildflowers, joining a climate march and contacting local councillors to push for a nature recovery motion.

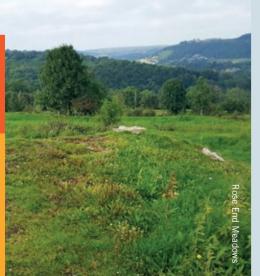
Local leaders are listening. In November, Derby City Council approved plans for the UK's largest urban rewilding project, at Allestree Park. And in February Derbyshire County Council passed a Nature Recovery motion that lays out clear commitments that will enable local authorities to deliver real change.

October also saw the launch of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Derwent Connections programme, which

will see woodland creation and natural flood management throughout the Derwent river catchment. Over 3,000 local residents took part in an initial survey providing information about local flooding and sites that could be used to hold water or for woodland. Hundreds of residents have also volunteered to support the project.

This progress is certainly encouraging but on the national and world stage there has been a huge gulf between what leaders at COP26 said and the reality of what has been achieved. The UK has provided poor leadership by failing to ban new coal mines and continuing to support small oil and gas exploration in UK waters. The government needs to increase its ambition and speed up carbon reduction, and it needs to take forward the agricultural reforms currently underway to make sure that they work for nature and for the climate.

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to everybody who took action ahead of the conference. It is not too late for a Wilder Future.



You did it! Thank you for raising £126,000 for wildlife

Thanks to all our members and supporters, we raised the money needed to secure our recent land purchase which will extend our existing nature reserve, Rose End Meadows in Cromford. This new area is a key stepping stone that will link together a number of sites and will mean a 200 acre area for wildlife will be created in the future. We were blown away by the response – thank you so much to all who donated and supported us. We look forward to sharing more with you about our plans over the coming months.





Kayleigh Wright, Communications Assistant

Not only are we currently in the middle of a climate crisis, but we are also within a nature crisis too. Our wildlife species across the UK are declining rapidly. In Derbyshire we're seeing a massive change in species numbers dropping or moving across the country due to changes in land use and pollution. However, we have been working closely with a number of landowners, organisations, voluntary groups and businesses who have been working hard to improve habitats through creation and restoration schemes across Derbyshire. We have been working hard on our most recent projects, including the beaver reintroduction at Willington Wetlands, which in time will see our eco-engineers making positive changes to the wetland landscape and encouraging a range of species as a result.

Derby City Council has given the green light to our proposal for a rewilding project at Allestree Park, which will see Derby benefitting from more space for wildlife-rich habitats and potential species reintroductions.

In partnership with Derbyshire Biological Records, our State of Nature report has been put together to highlight the key pressures that are affecting our biodiversity. The report shows a number of key facts and figures amongst different areas within nature. The report also includes maps which show areas in Derbyshire that have been affected by changes and the movement of certain species due to climate change. We will be using the report findings to work on the best and most appropriate actions to help improve Derbyshire's nature in the future.

Our findings show that some key species of mammal are declining, including water vole, brown hare, hedgehog, rabbit and badger. Causes of decline vary between species but the most common are changes in habitat quality, pollution, road casualties and habitat destruction. However, we've seen an increase in numbers of our elusive otter, which has returned to most of Derbyshire's rivers over the past 20 years. Seeing signs of otters is much easier than seeing the animals themselves. You might find five-toed footprints and droppings, which are also known as 'spraints', along riverbanks and waterways. Otters are excellent swimmers due to their dense fur. webbed feet and the ability to close their ears and nose when underwater.

Up until the end of 2019, 319 bird species had been recorded in Derbyshire. But several bird species are in decline and are at risk of extinction in the county, including lesser spotted woodpecker, corn bunting, turtle dove, hawfinch, twite and hen harrier. This is mostly due to habitat loss, intensive farming and persecution of birds of prey. However, there has been an increase in bittern, woodlark and nightjar due to better habitat availability for these particular species. A lot of work is going into the improvement of conservation for bird species such as encouraging rewilding, improving and creating habitats at a landscape-scale and much more.





Our report findings also show that there are 84 priority species of invertebrates found in Derbyshire. These are species that are known to be of conservation concern due to decline in numbers and include moths, butterflies and many others. But despite this, many species have arrived over the last 20 years, including ivy bee, willow emerald damselfly, tree bee and cinnamon bug. This is mostly due to climate change but habitat and genetic change have also had an influence. Invertebrates are an important part of our ecosystem: a third of our food crops are pollinated by insects and many small mammals and other species rely on insects for food. The loss of insects would have major consequences for both wildlife and people.

Many semi-natural habitats such as species rich wetlands and meadows, have declined in the last 40 years and 245 native plants are listed on Derbyshire's Red Data List for plants. Reptile and amphibian numbers are varied across Derbyshire. Unfortunately a number of species are declining due to alteration, fragmentation and destruction of their habitats. This includes the common toad which has declined due to loss of ponds and breeding locations being close to roads. The common lizard has declined in lowland Derbyshire but populations are stable in the Peak District. Grass snakes are more common across eastern and northern eastern parts of Derbyshire; they can be spotted basking in the sunlight during the spring and summer months, or can often be found swimming in wetland habitats. Another two common species in Derbyshire are the common frog and smooth newt due to suitable habitats provided for them.

There is still a lot to be done to combat the climate and nature emergency on a both a large and small scale. On the larger scale we are working hard to restore vital habitats and natural climate solutions as part of our Nature's Recovery; looking at better ways to manage our land, starting rewilding projects for a Wilder

Derbyshire, and much more. On a smaller scale there are many things you can do to help, such as going peat free, recycling and reusing, or changing the way you travel. Even the smallest of actions can make a big impact.

The full report will be available on our website in late spring.



Nature Recovery NETWORK OPPORTUNITY Mapping Hollie Fisher, Senior Living Landscapes Advisor

Nature Recovery Networks (NRN) are joined-up, nature rich spaces that create a functioning, connected living landscape for wildlife to move through, giving nature room to thrive and help species adapt to climate change. An NRN works on the idea of linking existing habitats with stepping stones and wildlife corridors, creating and restoring habitats ranging from small gardens and green spaces to huge expanses of moorland.

To have the greatest impact on ecological restoration and successfully create functional networks, we need to know what land parcels are already of high ecological value, where bottlenecks and fragmentation occur and where best to target our efforts to connect the landscape. This is done through creating opportunity maps. So far, we have completed this process for the Wild Peak area, allowing us to view existing key corridors and identify priority opportunities for restoration, with an aim of completing this for the whole county in the coming months.

Our methodology for creating these opportunity maps uses a range of technical computer programs to combine and evaluate existing habitat data, core priority sites, drainage opportunities and soil types. The final output provides us with a multitude of information, crucially: a habitat map of the entire area, existing core networks of open, woodland and wetland (where good quality, connected habitats already are) and, most importantly, where to target the creation of open, wetland and woodland sites to create and expand these crucial corridors. The output is to be used as a guide, not as law, and all recommendations will be subject to ground truthing surveys before the work is carried out.

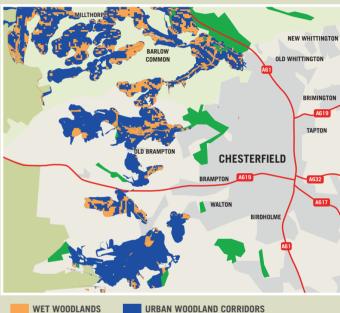
Now that this map has been made we need to use it to its highest advantage, working to integrate the outputs into local planning decisions, upcoming conservation projects, environmental farming and biodiversity net gain schemes, and targeting areas highlighted as priority for creation or enhancement. The

Wild Peak Boundary



wth © Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photograph

Areas within the Chesterfield – Peak District buffer zone of high priority to create a woodland network.

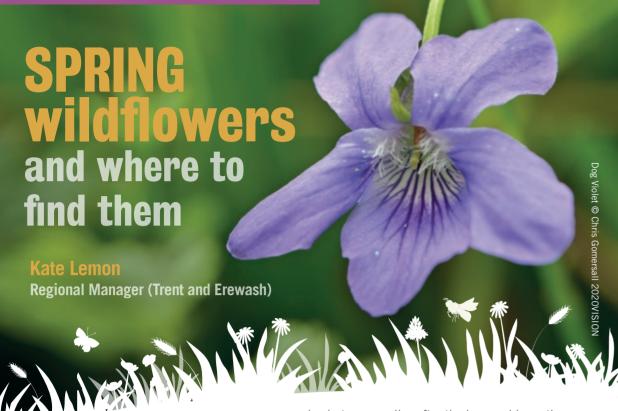


actions taken need to be carried out at a range of scales, from rewilding roadside verges and gardens to large-scale restoration of grouse moors and reforestation. By doing this we can ensure that we are maximizing our efforts, putting resources in the right places and taking the correct steps towards the target of 33% of Derbyshire being managed for nature by 2030. The map is an essential step towards this target, to allow wildlife to recover, restore our deteriorating moorlands, connect our woodlands, create corridors rich in flowering species and to bring nature back into urban areas.

There are a number of ways in which the NRN map can help us reach this goal, such as improving north—south connectivity to allow species to follow their climatic niche, integrating the map with our Derwent Connections project

to identify where to target woodland creation and the creation of wildlife corridors between rural and urban areas, targeting sites of high priority for woodland to reduce flood risk and improve carbon sequestration in our towns, bringing people closer to nature.

This is your call to action to help us create essential nature recovery networks of open, wet and woodland habitats. Do you know of any disused land within the Wild Peak boundary that could be restored for wildlife? Do you own land within the boundary that you want to manage with nature in mind and play a role in the creation of these networks? Send us an email at wildpeak@derbyshirewt.co.uk and we can give you tailored advice, using the opportunity map and our ecological expertise, working alongside you to restore our landscape.



Spring is the season we all look forward to throughout the winter, a time when we anticipate warmer weather and having our day brightened up by splashes of colour as plants begin to flower. One of the earliest wild flowers to blossom in the spring is the lesser celandine. You can find these pretty plants along woodland paths and tracks, hedgerow bottoms and stream banks. A small low-growing perennial herb in the buttercup family, it has distinctive heart-shaped, glossy, deep green leaves and yellow, starshaped flowers with eight to twelve petals. It was considered to have medicinal properties and applied directly to the skin for bleeding wounds and gums and the treatment of haemorrhoids.

Of all our nature reserves, one of my favourites is Lea Wood. There is a timelessness about this nature reserve that seems to help put day to day worries into perspective and allows a sense of escapism from the real world. The site has been woodland for thousands of years, shaped by humans in many subtle ways throughout, but it retains a wild and natural feel that feeds the soul. A huge part of its history is the link to Florence Nightingale and her family, being effectively the back garden to Lea Hurst, their Derbyshire home in Holloway near Cromford. In April the woodlands

begin to come alive after the long, cold months of winter. The air is filled with the song of many different birds setting up territories, cleaning out old nests, building new and establishing their little piece of home in the woods. The trees are starting to come awake too, with buds appearing and hazel catkins waving in the breeze.

Tree flowers are often overlooked, but take the time to see the difference between the fluffy lamb's tail-like male catkins and the female flower that looks like a small bud with a protruding red style. However, the real eye catcher in the wood at this time is the spread of wild daffodils running riot up and down the slopes. Much beloved by William Wordsworth, truly wild daffodils are a rare sight these days. Local legend has it that Florence Nightingale planted the original bulbs after returning to Derbyshire at the end of the Crimean War (1853-1856). It is said the bulbs were given to her by the Russian men she helped to care for and certainly the introduction of this plant to the UK can be traced back to this time. Their display can be shortlived but time it right and you can see the daffodils at the end of their showing and the bluebells that carpet the woodland at the start of theirs. Other wild flowers to spot include yellow archangel, wild garlic and the tiny purple flowers of dog violet.





are bluebells. One of the very best sites in south Derbyshire for bluebells is the DWT Spring Wood Nature Reserve on the banks of Staunton Harold reservoir near Melbourne in early to mid May. Spending most of the year underground as bulbs, bluebells emerge in swathes across woodlands and meadows from April onwards. The leaves are strap-shaped, smooth and hairless with a pointed tip, around 45cm long. The flower spikes rise up from the centre of the tussock of leaves with distinctive bell-shaped flowers that have six petals and upturned tips to each. The scent is iconic, a rich and heady unique smell that can be almost overwhelming when the air is warm and breeze is low. This comes from the creamy white pollen inside the drooping inflorescence with up to 20 flowers per stem. Don't be confused by the very similar Spanish bluebell, the key difference being the flowers: those of the Spanish bluebell are arranged all around the stem, not drooping to one side like the flowers of the British bluebell.

Dog or wood violets are native and found in woodland, grassland and heathland. They are small plants with diminutive flowers but of a striking purple colour with a white centre. The 5 petals of the flower overlap slightly and the bottom petal has a darker purple detail. Sweet violet are very similar and easily confused, so get up close and personal: sweet violet has a subtle sweet scent, whereas dog violet is unscented. In woodlands later on in the year you may see fritillary butterflies feeding and laying their eggs on them.

No trip to see spring flowers would be complete without stopping at Priestcliffe Lees Nature Reserve in the heart of the Wye valley between Buxton and Bakewell. The north-facing slopes of this spectacular limestone grassland reserve are a sea of purple and yellow from early April onwards with early purple orchids and cowslips cresting the slope down to the Monsal Trail. As the name suggests the early purple orchid is one of the first orchid flowers to bloom in spring. It grows up to 40cm in height with dark green blade-like leaves that have a distinctive purple-green patches in lines running up the leaf. Several spikes of rich purple-pink flowers stand upright with as many 50 flowers to each plant. The cowslips are lower in height, the wrinkly leaves with a cream central vein forming a rosette at the base of a stalk, holding the yellow bell-shaped flowers, which are enclosed in a long green tube-shaped calyx. As with bluebells the flowers all face one side of the stalk, which is an easy way to tell them apart from false oxlips, a hybrid of cowslip and primrose that are common in gardens.

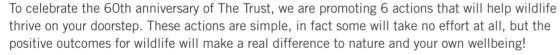






Help nature...

And invite your local wildlife over



NATURE NEEDS YOU

Remember the days when your car wind screen was covered in bugs after a summer drive? Ever wondered why that is such a rare occurrence now? The world's insect populations are plummeting everywhere and yet insects are essential to life on earth, including life in our garden. Today, 40% of insects face extinction. But there is a way you can help.

What is causing insect declines?

Pollinators and many other invertebrates face threats, from insensitive land use, including fragmentation and loss of habitat, reduction in plant species diversity and the routine use of unnecessary pesticides and herbicides. All have been linked to the declining numbers.

How can you help?

Your garden can serve as a fantastic habitat for a wide range of species throughout the year. Your back garden, window box or vegetable patch are all connected to Derbyshire's wider landscape.



To help nature we all need to get a little wilder, so get involved and take part in one of our actions or create your own action for wildlife and be part of the community of people across Derbyshire who want to help put nature in recovery.



Grow don't mow

One of the easiest and most effective ways to help is to #growdontmow.

If you have not done so already, take the leap and let your grass grow this year. Rewild your whole garden or just leave a patch and watch your garden transform into a beautiful oasis, watch the dandelions pop up and see bees and butterflies return. Pulmonaria, hawthorn and crab apple are also great sources of early nectar and pollen.

Go potty for wildlife

For patio areas, balconies, or small hard standing areas then **#gopotty for wildlife** and brighten up your garden with pots, pans and wellie boots and fill them out with insect friendly plants, create a bee bar or butterfly café. Watch as your garden begins to receive visits from all sorts of invertebrates!



Pond in a pot

Ponds are important sources of water and nourishment for insects. They do not need to be large – even a small, shallow pebble pond will do, so **#Pot in a pond**. An upcycled washing up bowl will be beneficial and you will soon be welcoming dragonflies, water boatmen and even frogs!

Shine (the right) light

How you use lighting in your home and garden can have a BIG impact on insects and our wildlife. Nocturnal insects, including moths, become disoriented by artificial light and light pollution is thought to be partly to blame for the decline of glowworms. Moths and night-flying insects may gather around lights, but they do not eat or mate while they are there and usually circle the light until they drop. Insects would rather be kept in the dark. So only use outdoor lighting when you need it and leave dark spaces in your garden and choose low intensity lighting in warm white, yellow or amber hues.



Bring back birds

There is a shortage of natural nesting sites for birds, and this has played a part in the decline of some of the UK's most iconic species. It is easy to provide nesting opportunities for birds in our gardens and outdoor spaces, and with spring rapidly approaching, now is the ideal time to start thinking about nest boxes for your local birds. Locating your nest boxes correctly is one of the key determinants in how likely birds are to occupy them and with this in mind we have put together some answers to the most frequently asked questions about nest boxes – covering where and when to put up your boxes, cleaning and maintenance, and dealing with predators. Check out our team wilder web pages.

Support the #NatureForEveryone campaign

Everyone, everywhere, should be able to grow up and grow old – with nature, but one in three people in England cannot access nature within a short walk of their home.

The pandemic proved how important spending time in nature is to people's health and wellbeing. But it also highlighted the inequalities in access to thriving natural spaces. Our **#NatureForEveryone** campaign calls on the Government to, create equal access to nature, set legal duties in the Levelling Up bill for developers and public bodies to provide access to nature-rich green spaces for everyone and provide funding for locally accessible nature-rich spaces by extending the Levelling Up Fund to green infrastructure projects.

Use your voice, take action and sign our **#NatureForEveryone campaign: https://** action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/97831/petition/1

These 6 small yet powerful actions will transform where you live. Tell your friends, neighbours and work colleagues to get involved, get wild and help nature.

To find out more information on how you can take part in these actions visit: https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/teamwilder

Gelebrating 60 YEARS

OF DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

1962

Derbyshire Naturalists' Trust was formed

Professor Arthur Clapham, a botanist at Sheffield University, was the Trust's first Chair.

A constitution was drawn up and a subscription rate of ten shillings was announced.



1962 Newsletter & First Membership Form

The Trust leased Hilton Gravel Pits and bought Overdale, the first nature reserve it owned outright.



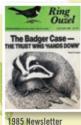
1973

Andrew Deadman, Conservation Officer was the first paid member of staff who worked from a tiny cottage in Twyford.

David Bellamy launches appeal to develop Matlock Bath Station as a visitor centre (The Whistlestop). Using Appeal money, the Trust purchased Rose End Meadows and opened the Whistlestop Centre in Matlock Bath.



1990 David Bellamy, **Whistlestop Centre**



1995

8 staff.

The Trust appointed

its first Chief

Executive, Irene

Coope and staff

numbers rose to



2011

The Trust purchased 200 acres of land near Ilkeston which became Woodside Reserve.

2010s

2016

The Trust acquired three new nature reserves and Sue Mayer took over as Chair

2020

The Trust purchased rewilding at its best.



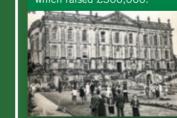
Thornhill Carrs Reserve a great site to showcase

1960s

1970s

1980s

Inspired by consultant Ian Carstairs, the Trust changed logo and instigated its first major fund raising appeal which raised £300.000.



1991 Badger Setts Bill with Tony Banks MP © Daily Telegraph

1990s



The Appletree Local Group, one of eight local groups, visited Longshaw Estate.

1998

The Trust received

a £500.000 lottery

Heritage Lottery Fund.

succeeded as Chair of

grant from the

David Oakes

the Trust.

2000s

...NEWS

over as Chair and oversaw the second organisational strategic plan.

2008 Tony Hams took

2007

Irene Coope retires

by the Trust's second

and is succeeded

Chief Executive

Ed Green.

2013

Jo Smith became the third Chief Executive and the Trust began its badger vaccination programme.



2017

The Trust opens charity shops in Bakewell and Belper.

2019

The Trust with over 20,000 supporters prevented the badger cull coming to Derbyshire.

2020s

The Trust has 18,000 valued members! The Trust is focussing on

DerbyshireWildlife Trust

The Future

We are looking

forward to achieving

so much for wildlife

here in Derbyshire.

Here's to the next

60 years!

its goals: • 33% of Derbyshire to be managed for Wildlife by

- 2030 More people to notice
- and care through our community engagement
- 1 in 4 people to act for wildlife - through team wilder

2021

The Trust introduces beavers back into Derbyshire for the first time in 800 years!

The Trust reaches £2,989,000 in income.



1967 The Trust establishes its first two nature reserves.

1969

RH (Dick) Appleby takes over as Chair Trust finances reached £1,000



18

1979

Pat Brassley joined along with Nick Brown (Promotions Officer) and Diane Wilson (Membership Secretary).

Appeal Event © Peter Shelton

NEWSLETTER

1972 Newsletter

Andrews successor

1988

1984

Lead by John Varty, the Trust gained national

publicity by winning

a private prosecution

caught badger digging

against five men

at Ambergate.

1984

New Chair

Professor Trevor

office move to

Elvaston Castle.

Elkington and an

its name to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, adopted a new badger



Appeal fund raising garden party at Chatsworth



1989 Sir David Attenborough leant support at Matlock Bath Station



A three year lottery funded project 'Making Natural Connections' enabled education staff to link with schools.

Spring 2022 Wilder Derbyshire www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk 2021 Release of male beaver © Chris Johnstone



We believe nature can make a real difference to our mental and physical health, from going out on a walk around the local park to making bird feeders for the garden, there's many ways in which nature connectedness can provide us with benefits to our wellbeing. However, not everyone has access to a garden or a nearby local green space, particularly those who live in urban areas. We're working hard to help people and communities connect with nature through wellbeing nature activities in Derby City and rewilding projects that will enable people to become more connected to nature.

Thanks to funding from the Cadent Foundation, we have our Wild Wellbeing Derby project which focuses on working with community groups in Derby. The project began during the Covid-19 lockdown which meant we were unable to meet people face to face in physical green spaces straight away. We gave people a flavour of what the project is about by going virtual and so we set up our Wilder Wellbeing Facebook group, a YouTube channel and an online webinar partnered with Derbyshire Mind. We designed a 5-week programme delivered via Zoom for local organisation Women's Work, with sessions introducing a range of nature crafts and



encouraging the ladies to get out into the beautiful all have varying garden at their Derby centre. As part of Mental Health Awareness Week 2021 we developed a paper-based booklet entitled 'Adventure Within! A Journal Exploring The Five Ways to Wild Wellbeing'. This booklet included activity ideas and a space for people to reflect by journaling and doodling about their own nature connection journey. We also worked with Spiral Arts, a local community arts organisation, to deliver Zoombased workshops for us based on gathering local residents' ideas to rewild Derby Arboretum.

With the lockdown restrictions now eased our Wild Wellbeing project has been able to continue in person. We provided a 7-week programme of wellbeing activities for Inspirative Arts with a goal to improve their outdoor space for wildlife and encourage service users to engage with the outside space in ways to support their wellbeing. The participants who engaged with this programme

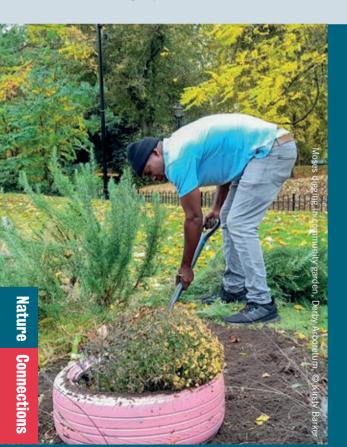
health needs and disabilities. They took part in sensory nature crafts and made small wildlife features for the garden, such seed bombs, bug houses and bird

feeders. Several of the individuals now have plans to find ways to help nature at home, including by planting bulbs in pots and putting up bird feeders and boxes.

Kirsty Barker, our Wellbeing Officer who is leading the wellbeing work for the Trust, says "It's really important that we help people discover and feel confident in their local green spaces and find ways to naturally feel better."



One participant who came along to the Derbyshire Mind sessions was looking for ways to get outdoors more and for a group in which to socialise. As a wheel-chair user and young person of non-binary gender, they often feel they don't 'fit in' to groups, especially those held during the day.



"I've noticed the sensory aspects of nature – tiny patterns, repetitions, colours and smells, even in a city centre park. I find it easier to focus outside. I've found sensory treasure; scent is such a big thing affecting my mood. I've placed the lavender bag we made in my mask when travelling to ease my anxiety and it really helped."

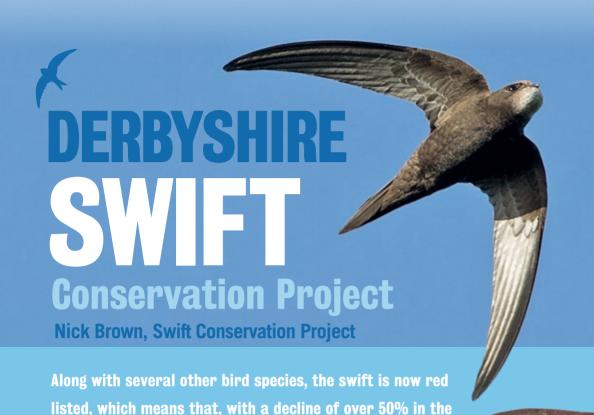
This participant now feels confident that there are other people like them of all ages, genders and backgrounds who are interested in nature and wellbeing and feels happy to engage in more activities in the future.



Not only have we been working with organisations and communities, but we are working hard to expand out nature connections on a much larger scale too. The public consultation on plans to rewild Allestree Park in Derby is now under way. At 130 hectares, Allestree Park is Derby's largest urban park and the city's biggest Local Nature Reserve. We will be working with Derby City Council and the University of Derby to rewild the park. Our plans to rewild Allestree Park is not only a big step towards tackling climate change but could also bring wide-ranging benefits for nature, wildlife and people. Rewilding around the park could see the creation of new habitats through minimal interventions, such as woodlands, wetland and scrubland and grasslands. There is also the possibility of looking at species reintroductions, such as water vole, harvest mouse and tree sparrow. This will support nature recovery in Derby and help tackle problems that are driving nature's decline. Rewilding at Allestree Park would help make Derby more vibrant and green and it would give residents in Derby more opportunities to get out in nature. This will help to improve wellbeing by connecting people with nature in a large green space, creating a 'Natural Health Service' for all.

Nature can be found even in unexpected places and we will be continuing to help people connect with nature and discover their local green spaces especially within urban settings.

24



In order to highlight the problems swifts face and to try to encourage people across the county 'SAW' has now become an annual institution held to help them, I set up the Derbyshire Swift Conservation Project back in 2014, running it in an unpaid/voluntary capacity.

last 25 years, this remarkable bird is in deep trouble.

The project has certainly raised the profile of blogs on the Trust's website, many talks to groups, direction into it. swift walks and radio interviews.

across the county, many of whom have put up swift nest boxes on their houses. The Trust even has an multiple-occupancy array of boxes at its headquarters in Middleton.

When renovation work threatened active swift nests, the project stepped in and tried, with some success, to prevent nest entrances being blocked.

The project also initiated a national Swift Awareness Week in 2018, which was enthusiastically supported by local swift groups

across the UK, with over 100 events being run. every July.

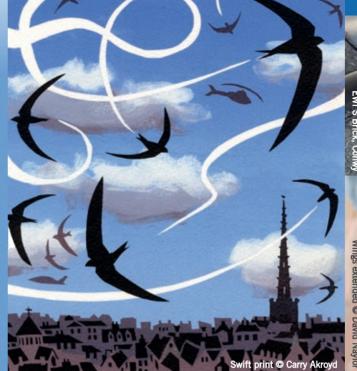
In 2021, Andy Broadhurst, who had instigated and run a similar project to mine in Hampshire, moved to Derbyshire. He now works alongside swifts across the county, with articles in the media, me on the project and has injected new life and

ANDY WRITES:

The project has also been supported by individuals It is thought that the loss of nest sites caused by building renovations and repair is a major reason for the decline of swifts. So my main focus has been to encourage planning authorities to require that new housing estates are built with "swift bricks" (ideally one brick per house) in order to tap into the huge potential of new housing.

> A swift brick is effectively a brick or block-sized nest box which fits into the brickwork during building. The potential to provide new nest sites

> > Spring 2022 Wilder Derbyshire





this way is huge. Over the past six months in Derbyshire, a total of 5722 new houses have been the subject of planning applications. Just think if all of those had an integrated swift brick!

We also know that council-owned properties are often attractive to nesting swifts, so another project we are working on is to ensure these nest sites are protected when local councils and housing agencies renovate their properties. One example of this is at Rowsley, on the A6 between Matlock and Bakewell, where we found a small estate of council properties with a very active swift colony, perhaps one of the largest in the Derbyshire Dales. With great support from volunteer surveyors, we surveyed the area and found 40 active swift nests, which suggested that the actual total could be much higher.

We are now working with the local council to ensure that any renovations are carried out sympathetically in order to protect this important colony.





If you would like to learn more or help swifts in some way, eg by putting up swift boxes on your house, volunteering to do some survey work or to check planning applications, then please email swifts@derbyshirewt.co.uk, and Nick or Andy will get back to you.

Perhaps 15 times each year, the Swift Project emails about 350 interested folk across the county with 'Swift Updates'. These are free. Do get in touch if you would like to receive them and get the latest swift news.



Laura Jones, Wilder Communities Team Leader

In 2018, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trusts came together to start a traineeship programme which would enable people with a real passion for nature, but who hadn't had the opportunity to work or train in the conservation sector, the chance to train with the Wildlife Trusts and gain valuable work skills to kickstart their careers. The conservation sector has historically been difficult to access for people without a university education and the Working for Nature Traineeship is helping to break barriers and provide people from a more diverse range of backgrounds a connection to develop their skills and work in the sector.

The traineeship has been made possible by funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the Skills for the Future grants programme to provide paid work-based training placements to meet a skills shortage in the heritage sector and help diversify the workforce. Nearly four years in, the Working for Nature programme has seen 17 people work through the 10-month traineeship, over 260,000 hours of training across the three Wildlife Trusts, nearly 100 people achieve a John Muir Discovery Award, connections made with other wildlife conservation organisations as trainees completed work placements and 16 trainees gained a Level 2 City and Guild Diploma in Work-based Environmental Conservation. A fantastic outcome of the traineeship is that many of the trainees have

gone on to find employment in the conservation sector, from project work building community green spaces for local people to enjoy, to ecological consultancy, to practical land management work.

The Working for Nature traineeship has made many connections. It has brought three Wildlife Trusts together to work in partnership, joined staff, community organisations and members of the public together, but most importantly it has connected people with tangible love for nature to a programme to support them to learn and thrive and get closer to nature. There have been some amazing achievements and personal gains along the way as well. Here are just a few snippets of what previous trainees have said.

"My biggest goal before starting the traineeship was that I wanted to believe in myself after going through a tough time with depression. Working outdoors, surrounded by nature and learning new things had helped me build up my confidence and allowed me to start believing in myself again."

Kayleigh, 2021 trainee

"The course is extremely fun and interesting but has its physical side to it, it keeps you healthy and feeling good that you are helping nature and improving every day."

Joshua, 2020 trainee

"I've been interested in wildlife since I can remember, but the conservation sector is notoriously difficult to get in to. The Working for Nature traineeship was my foot in the door of the conservation sector. Everything I learnt on the traineeship has been useful in helping me to find a job in the sector and now I'm employed as an Ecologist at a Consultancy! I've used many of the lessons from the Working for Nature classroom sessions to get to that position."

Sharron. 2019 trainee



"I decided to apply for the traineeship to give me a chance and opportunity to start a career in conservation, away from jobs I haven't particularly enjoyed. I didn't continue education after my GCSEs for many reasons and always struggled in academic studies, finding it easier to learn practically. It proved very hard to find a traineeship scheme being over 25 until I came across the Working for Nature scheme. Being someone who suffers a lot with anxiety, I have found it to be an extremely supportive environment - support which I think has been crucial for me starting in a completely new sector and giving me the confidence to push myself and giving me hope that this is a career I can see myself progressing into. I sometimes can't believe I've been given this opportunity; I feel very lucky and extremely grateful." Jade, 2021 trainee

Melissa, one of our 2021 trainees, wrote this moving poem as part of her application onto the traineeship. It touches beautifully on the aims of connecting with nature.

A FIGHTING CHANCE

We all lead such busy lives, rushing here and there, No time to stop and breathe, rarely minutes that we can spare, We push ourselves to breaking point, we're forced to stop and rest, And when we stop, take away all that noise, we realise we're truly blessed.

to be surrounded by such beauty, a universal sanctuary where we can heal.

Natural beauty surrounds us all, if we just open our eyes and feel, the strength and peace that can be found, in the simplest of things, A sunrise impressively painting the sky, a butterfly's display of intricate wings.

We lose sight of our purpose, forgetting why we're alive, Not questioning our "why", stuck in a 9 'til 5,

But when we break it down, and we look to find our "why", We realise what truly matters, the difference we can make if we only try.

Our magnificent planet has been altered by us, abused by destructive ways,

And now this feels like a retaliation, snapping us from our selfish daze.

A wake up call, the shake that we need, to open our eyes to the mess we've made.

We need to give Earth time to recover, a recovery that can't be delayed. Nature gives us so much, yet asks for so little in return,

Respect is all it needs, sadly a lesson we don't seem to have learnt. It's time to become less of the problem, to help in any way that we can, Together we can become the solution, to give Earth a fighting chance.



AND MORE IS TO COME!

Seven new trainees started with us in January 2022, working together across the three Trusts and we hope there are any many more to join us in future years. Here's to building more connections across the sector for people from all backgrounds to access and work with and to benefit nature.



Diane Gould, Wilder Engagement Team Leader & Simon Lowe Transforming Lives Officer

The global pandemic, and the resulting lockdowns, brought our need to get out into nature into sharp focus, with more people than ever taking advantage of their local green spaces. Access to nature can play a vital role in keeping us emotionally, psychologically and physically healthy. 'Access to nature' takes many forms, from traditional green spaces, such as parks, woods, wetlands and beaches, to exposure to nature through private gardens, ponds, window boxes and even house plants,

What is nature connectedness?

Nature connectedness is about taking notice of what is happening around you and tuning in to the sights, sounds and smells that otherwise you may not notice during a busy day. It is more than just getting outside for exercise with your ear phones in and head down. How much we notice, think about and appreciate our natural surroundings are critical factors in supporting good mental health.

The crucial point in this definition is the belief that humans are a part of nature as opposed to the two being separate entities. This subtle shift, placing ourselves within nature, changes how we perceive the rest of nature – it becomes more relevant to our daily lives, habits and life choices. We start to notice nature all around us, and we begin to spend time with nature rather than believing it to be something we travel to in order to visit.

'Nature connectedness captures the relationship between people and the rest of nature'. White the state of the state of

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

Why nature connection is good for us and nature

Studies have shown that being connected to nature is good for our wellbeing (mental and physical), as it helps us regulate our emotions and can improve our sense of connectedness with other people. In fact as far as wellbeing is concerned, nature connectedness was found to be at least as important as established factors such as education, marital status or income.

nlight © Guy Edwardes 2020VISION

The Noticing Nature report (University of Derby and the National Trust) showed that although 80% of people expressed concern for nature, only 29% said they had taken action to help by creating a home for wildlife in the preceding year. The report found that people with a high level of nature connectedness did 40-50% more to help nature through pro-conservation and pro-environmental actions than those with a weaker relationship.

Strengthening our nature connectedness

Following their research, the University of Derby group have developed a framework for improving human-nature relationships (see the table on page 31). What may come as the biggest surprise to many of us is that neither time spent in nature nor knowledge/study of nature emerged as significant factors in increasing nature connectedness.

> By carrying out activities that involve our senses,

we can begin to develop our connection with nature, taking time to notice the beauty in a leaf or the intricacies of how a tree bends and moves in the breeze. Listening to the birds, even if you don't what species they are, or feeling the grass between your toes can help that connection

to grow. Improving your own surroundings for nature by the introduction of native, pollinator friendly plants either in pots, a window box or in the garden can have the added benefit of assisting the local insect population as well as allowing you to relax and reflect whilst you listen to the bees or watch the butterflies.

For people who are not too sure where to start there are numerous resources online, including our very own 30 Days Wild. This campaign from The Wildlife Trusts encourages people to get involved with nature every day throughout June.

Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) partnership project, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is offering people in South Derbyshire and East Staffordshire the opportunity to develop their connection to nature. We have worked with a small number of local people so far, who have come to us either via referral from a local agency or have self-referred.





Activating the 5 pathways to nature connectedness

Pathway	Activating this pathway	Example of connecting using bird song
Contact	Experience nature using your senses, take the time to listen, look, feel	Listen carefully to bird singing, close your eyes to help you focus. Do you notice more songs?
Beauty	Take the time to appreciate the beauty in nature, take a photo, create a drawing or poem	Record the bird song to listen to again. If you play an instrument can you copy the song? Can you sing the same notes?
Emotion	Notice how nature makes you feel.	How do you feel listening to the singing? Relaxed, happy?
Meaning	Think about what nature means to you.	Ask yourself which song do you enjoy the most and why? What would it be like if we didn't hear bird song?
Compassion	Reflect on what you can do to help nature.	How can you help birds? Can you put out food and water for them or include plants in your garden that will feed the birds?

If you would like to learn more:

Nature Connectedness

- Blog by Prof. Miles Richardson: https://findingnature.org.uk/
- https://www.derby.ac.uk/research/centres-groups/nature-connectedness-research-group/

30 Days Wild: https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild

Connecting with Nature programme: please contact Simon Lowe at slowe@derbyshirewt.co.uk

DWT Events: https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/events

Transforming the Trent Valley project: https://www.thetrentvalley.org.uk/



Biodiversity Net Gain A TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL'S VIEWPOINT

Dr Philip Fermor, Innovation Manager, DWT

For the last 30 years, I have worked as a biodiversity professional on projects within the planning system, striving to ensure no net loss of nature. There have been notable successes, with extensive areas of new nature reserves created, species protected from local extinction, and increased access to nature for local communities. However, I've also been dreaming of a time when every development project would provide a scientifically quantifiable net gain for nature.

Nature conservation protection has been evolving since the local conservation trusts, which were the forerunners of our current Wildlife Trust network, were first established in the 1920s. Initially the focus was on the protection of high-quality nature conservation sites, habitats and species, but recently, conservation policy has shifted to encourage the protection and the creation of more biodiversity resources, which are bigger, better and connected.

Our laws are also changing to reflect this shifting conservation approach – reflecting society's desire to ensure that the next generation inherits a biodiversity resource which is in a better condition than now. The Environment Act 2021 includes a requirement for those projects granted planning permission under the Town & Country Planning Act (which includes most housing and employment development projects) to ensure that habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than before the development. The Act will mandate, by autumn 2023, the need for such projects to achieve a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in order to gain planning permission.

In order to measure the biodiversity impact of each development project, the Environment Act 2021 sets out the need for each project to be assessed by an ecological professional, using a standardised tool (the Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool) to measure the pre-development and post-development 'Biodiversity Units'.

Each project will still need to ensure that they are adhering to the ecological mitigation hierarchy - to (1) avoid impacting biodiversity resources, (2) mitigate any unavoidable impacts, and (3) compensate for any remaining impacts – but they will also need to demonstrate that there will be a 10% uplift in biodiversity as a result of the project. If the uplift cannot be delivered within the project's own boundaries, then biodiversity enhancements can also be delivered off-site or via statutory biodiversity credits. Each local planning authority will be required to assess a project's impact on biodiversity and agree that any on-site and/or off-site biodiversity improvements are appropriate, achievable and fully funded by a levy paid by the developer secured prior to their construction activities commencing.

Whilst it is recognised that some schemes will be able to achieve their biodiversity enhancements within their own project boundaries, the current thinking amongst local planning authorities, nature conservation organisations and research institutions, is that some of the biodiversity enhancements will need to be delivered off-site at locations which provide the best outcomes for nature's recovery.

The Wildlife Trusts are calling for at least 30% of our land and sea to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030, and BNG offers an opportunity to fund conservation-led projects which make more space for nature, through rewilding and bespoke habitat creation.

DWT could target these sites to be part of the Nature Recovery Network, a series of joined-up, nature-rich spaces of all sizes, across all areas. DWT are already working on projects to assess, map and identify Nature Recovery Network locations within Derbyshire, and, going forwards, BNG funding could be used to connect our existing nature resources, to expand our Living Landscape and to create places that store carbon and help to tackle the climate crisis.

In 2022 we are working on a number of large pilot study sites which will allow us to assess the BNG opportunities within strategically important locations for nature's recovery. This will ensure that schemes will support the charity's vision, be financially sustainable, and help us to shift the trend from biodiversity loss to biodiversity gain. No organisation is better placed than DWT to deliver a positive outcome for nature through BNG. Our team of ethical, passionate, dedicated and experienced habitat creation and land management professionals could ensure the delivery of nature's recovery as owners and in-perpetuity managers of these critically located and custom-designed sites. On its own BNG won't solve the recovery of nature within Derbyshire, but it could provide a mechanism, which when delivered by our team, will help us galvanise ourselves and others to build a low-carbon, high-nature landscape in which both people and wildlife can thrive.



FURTHER READING

https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/about-us/our-history
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720

https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30by30

https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/nature-recovery-map

33

Together

Working

Working together for wildlife

50/50 Club winners

Congratulations to recent winners!

Margaret Taylor, Elaine Selkirk, Eileen White, Margaret Howe, Christine Berry, Blanche Maclean. J M Edwards, Anne Rice, Marion Rider, Mayeen Norton. Peter Date and Dr Graham Brodie

Feeling lucky?

The Wild Dreams 50/50 club raises funds which will be paid to a Landfill Operator to release and send a cheque (made Landfill Communities Fund monies for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Please note that these funds are not eligible for Gift Aid. The funds could generate 10 times their worth.

To join at just £12 per year please fill out the form below payable to Wild Dreams) to the Trust office or complete our online form at:

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk /raffles-and-clubs

Name (s)		
Address		
Telephone number Email address		
Number of subscriptions at £12 each		

In memory of **Y**



Michael Stephen Price 12th June 1958 -11th October 2021 Loving husband, father, grandfather and wildlife enthusiast

RETURN TO THE DALES

Back to the Dales to the places I love Where the limestone crags tower above Back to the places I knew as a child Walking and climbing and running wild Down by the river so pure and so clear Next to nature, how precious, how dear Alone with my thoughts I can scarce comprehend The beauty and grandeur around every bend Each year I return and thank God above For revealing through nature, his infinite love.

Author: Michael Stephen Price



Ian Buxton 17th December 2021 Devoted husband, avid vachtsman and wildlife trust volunteer

Ian and his wife Christine were married in 1989 after meeting that year on a Rolls-Royce Mountaineering Club walk and continued to enjoy hillwalking together here and abroad. Ian was very active outdoors and enjoyed sailing; he skippered trips in home waters & to several countries in Europe.

Ian volunteered with the Trust between 2002 and 2020. Part of this was in species records where he added an incredible 113.372 records. We appreciate all the time he gave to us and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him at the Trust.

Working in PARTNERSHIP

We work with businesses across all our living landscapes in different ways, from supporting the delivery of community projects to managing land for wildlife, with a lot going on in between! We love working with all our Corporate Partners as we believe that together we can enable a greener recovery for Derbyshire.



If your business would like to get involved, please get in touch on enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk



We are proud to be working in partnership with:

Nestle Waters



















Lubrizol











Longeliffe



TARMAC

35





Broughton









34 Spring 2022 Wilder Derbyshire



Leave a gift

"A legacy to your local Wildlife Trust is a very special gift that can do remarkable things to help the wildlife treasures on your doorstep."

Sir David Attenborough

After providing for your loved ones, please remember the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.
When you are ready, we are here to talk.

01773 881188 enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk