

# WILDER

# DERBYSHIRE



**Derbyshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 30th  
September 2023

SHIPLEY PARK,  
HEANOR, DERBY

## NOTIFICATION OF Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's 61st Annual General Meeting



We are happy to notify you that our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 30th September at Shipley Park, Heanor, Derby. Below is a brief agenda of what can be expected.

### AGENDA



- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Welcome and introductions
- 3 Achievements and future plans
- 4 Approval of previous AGM minutes
- 5 Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023
- 6 Appointment of the Trusts auditors
- 7 Election of committee
- 8 Any Other Business – Question and Answer session

As well as the formal AGM proceedings we hope to run some exciting walks, talks and activities throughout the day. More details, including how to get involved, will be provided nearer the time.

[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/agm-2023](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/agm-2023)

If you require information in another accessible format or via post please email [enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk) or call **01773 881188** so we can ensure the communications reach you.



**Jo Smith**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

## WELCOME

Evidence has proven that if we can get 1 in 4 people taking visible action for nature, we will reach a social 'tipping point', and the majority will be encouraged to do the same. We need everyone to support nature's recovery in order to achieve our goals.

In this summer edition you will find articles on some of the projects we are working on, from engaging young people through our junior rangers programmes to working with underrepresented communities through our Nextdoor Nature project.

As valued members you also play an important role. By doing something great for nature and telling someone else about it, you can help put nature back into recovery.

By simply making a few small changes to our gardens and community spaces, we can create vital steppingstones for wildlife and allow them to play a necessary part in restoring and reconnecting habitats as part of a much bigger Nature Recovery Network.

Together we have the power to change.

Thank you for your support.



### Join the Conversation

Like us on Facebook  
/DerbyshireWildlifeTrust

Follow us on Twitter  
@DerbysWildlife

Follow us on Instagram  
@derbyshirewildlifetrust

Follow us on YouTube  
/derbyshirewt

#### On the cover

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#### Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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## SPOTTED

Share your images with us  
[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting)

### Honey Bee – Chesterfield

Photo: April 2023 © Stephen James



### Great Crested Grebe – Carsington

Photo: April 2023 © Jean-François Cudennec



### Greylag Geese – Staveley

Photo: April 2023 © Helen Wood

### Frog – Draycott

Photo: April 2023 © Lorna Rann



### Trichia decipiens slime mould (magnified) – Wyver Lane

Photo: April 2023 © Chris Jackson



## WILD WHITTINGTON: AN EXCITING NEW SPACE FOR NATURE



Wild Whittington

We are delighted to announce that we have secured the purchase of 60 acres of land for nature and local people to enjoy thanks to overwhelming support from the public, generous grants and philanthropic loans.

The piece of land at Old Whittington, to the north of Chesterfield, will be known as 'Wild Whittington'. The site connects St Bartholomew's woods to the south and Grasscroft ancient woodlands to the north. These woods join to Unstone and then down into the valley of the River Drone.

Using rewilding, the plan is to create varied habitats to bolster a vital corridor between the woodlands, becoming a place of major importance to nature, and to the people of Chesterfield and Derbyshire.

We are so grateful for the incredible response we had to our appeal to secure this land. Wild Whittington has been acquired through a mixture of investments in nature, including donations from our supporters and the John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust.

The purchase was finalised with additional funds from four private lenders who have provided philanthropic loans – a loan made on favourable terms, with low or no interest

and flexible repayments. This type of finance has been pioneered by philanthropic lender Julia Davies at We Have The Power, who is working with the Wildlife Trusts and others to scale up investment into nature's recovery.

At Wild Whittington, we are developing a pilot approach to funding even more space for nature, maximising opportunities presented by changes to the planning process as a result of the 2021 Environment Act.

The act includes a requirement that by autumn 2023, all new developments (such as housing developments and commercial sites) need to leave wildlife habitats in a better state than before the development. This improvement, which must be at least 10%, is referred to as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

By creating new habitats at Wild Whittington, we will be able to use BNG units to support nature's recovery in Derbyshire. This will raise further funds that can in turn be used to create more space for nature across the county.

For more information please see: [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wild-whittington](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wild-whittington)





## Aqueduct Cottage now open

A four-year project to save Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Aqueduct Cottage, a derelict 19th century building once owned by the family of Florence Nightingale, has been completed. The cottage, located next to our Lea Wood Nature Reserve along the Cromford Canal, has been lovingly and carefully restored by our team of dedicated volunteers.

Restoration work has included replacing the roof, stabilising and repointing walls, placing new floors and tiling, installing an upstairs exhibition and community space, and creating wildlife friendly gardens.

Lisa Witham, Director of Wilder Communities at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust said:

“To see the project come to fruition after four years is incredibly exciting. Now rejuvenated, Aqueduct Cottage provides an important gateway to Lea Wood Nature Reserve and the wider Derwent landscape.

“This project would not have been possible without the hard work of our passionate

volunteers and the generous donations of our supporters and members, so huge thanks to everyone who has worked to bring Aqueduct Cottage back to life.”

Volunteer Ron Common, added:

“Saving Aqueduct Cottage has been one of the most heart-warming conservation projects the county has seen in recent years. There has been an amazing level of support from the community which has underpinned the success of the project.

“In addition to important cash donations from organisations and individuals, thousands of pounds worth of materials and complimentary services have been provided free of charge, plus a staggering 7,500 hours of volunteer time has been put in by our dedicated team over the past three and half years.

“The restoration is a wonderful gift from the community for the benefit of present and future generations and it's a real Derbyshire ‘good news’ story that we can all be proud of.”

For more information please see: [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/aqueduct-cottage](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/aqueduct-cottage)

## UK government allows ‘emergency’ use of banned bee-harming pesticide

The government has announced that for the third year in a row, it will permit the use of the banned pesticide thiamethoxam – a type of neonicotinoid – on sugar beet in England in 2023. To put this into perspective, a single teaspoon of neonicotinoid is enough to deliver a lethal dose to **1.25 billion bees**.

The announcement was made just days after the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) declared that providing emergency derogations for expressly prohibited neonicotinoid-treated seeds is not in line with EU law, and only a month after the UK government was advocating for a global pesticide reduction target at the **UN COP15 biodiversity talks in Montreal**.

Three neonicotinoids (NNs), including thiamethoxam, were banned for outdoor agricultural use in the UK and the EU in 2018 due to their devastating impact on bees.

Despite UK guidance stating that emergency applications should not be granted more than once, last year the government handed the industry a second approval, ignoring the advice of its own expert body.

This authorisation is another example of the government failing to follow their warm words with meaningful action when it comes to pesticides and biodiversity. It raises wider concerns over whether the government will maintain existing restrictions on neonicotinoids and other harmful pesticides, or whether they may be overturned as part of a forthcoming bonfire of regulations that protect nature, wildlife and communities as part of the Retained EU Law Bill.

For the full article see: [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/news](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/news)



Aqueduct Cottage. Photo: © Ron Common





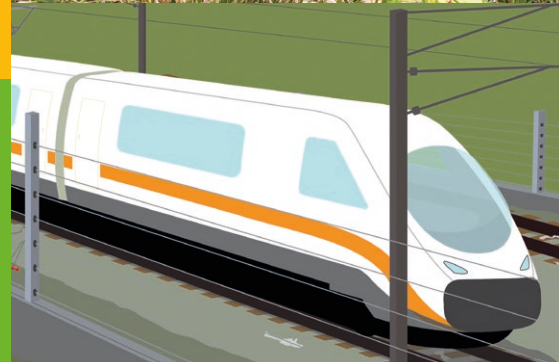
Photo: © Tom Marshall

**HS2 Ltd has UNDER-estimated the value of nature that will be destroyed.**



The Latest

NEWS



## Report reveals HS2 Ltd got its nature figures wrong

An evidence report issued in February, 'HS2 double jeopardy: how the UK's largest infrastructure project undervalued nature and overvalued its compensation measures', reveals fundamental flaws in the way HS2 Ltd has assessed the value of nature along the construction path of HS2.

It finds that HS2 Ltd has hugely undervalued natural habitats and the wildlife that is being destroyed by the construction along the route – while simultaneously overvaluing the impact of its nature compensation measures. For example, Phase 1 which covers 140 miles of track between London and the West Midlands, will cause at least 7.9 times more nature loss than accounted for by HS2 Ltd.

We support this report and the recommendation to pause construction of HS2 whilst these new findings are assessed by the government.

You can read the full report on our website and support this campaign by signing an open letter to the government, urging them to work together to address the new evidence about biodiversity loss calculation errors by HS2 Ltd and asking for an immediate pause on construction.

For more information and to sign our open letter to the government see: [www.wildlifetrusts.org/hs2-sign-our-open-letter](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/hs2-sign-our-open-letter)

## YOU make it all possible



Beaver. Photo: © Nick Upton



Volunteers

### A message from Ben Carter, Director of Development

In the pages of this magazine, and elsewhere, we often celebrate the large-scale programmes we have secured support for in recent years, such as Wild Peak, Derwent Connections, and Rewilding Allestree. These programmes are crucial to restoring our natural landscapes and bringing nature closer to everyone.

But the people who do the most for nature's recovery are our members and supporter. It all happens because **of you**.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who has supported us in so many ways.

We would like to thank the hundreds of people who generously donated to our Defend Nature appeal. Thanks to your support, we have been able to secure Wild Whittington (see page 5 for details) and fund rewilding projects across the county. Your contributions are making a real difference to the local environment.

And also thank you to the 7,000 people who have taken a 'Team Wilder' action for wildlife, such as creating a pond, planting wildflowers, or allowing their lawn to grow in the spring. Your efforts have had a significant impact on local ecosystems.

To the 9,000 people who backed or shared one of our campaigns, including on the Environment Act, the 'Bulldozer Bill', and HS2, and to the hundreds of people leading campaigns for nature in their area, we say 'more power to you'. Your support has helped to raise awareness of the issues facing our natural world and put pressure on those in power to act.

To the 507 volunteers who have dedicated their time to hands-on work for nature's recovery, from peregrine monitoring to shipping goods bought in our online shop, and everything in between, we cannot thank you enough. Your time and effort are invaluable to us and have helped us to achieve so much.

And to those incredible people, who together left £300,000 in gifts in wills in the last year, we can no longer thank directly, but we celebrate you and your legacy for nature that will live on for years to come.

**To everyone who champions nature – the wildlife of Derbyshire says a massive thank you.**

**Together, we can make a difference and ensure that our wildlife thrives for generations to come.**



# WHAT IS EDI

## and why is it important to us?

Family Outdoors. Photo: @Eve & Tom Photography

### Flavia Ojok – Head of Early Talent and Inclusion

**Equality:** creating a fairer society, where everyone can participate and has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

**Diversity:** recognising that we are all different and valuing that.

**Inclusion:** taking deliberate action to create environments where everyone feels respected, able to contribute and achieve their full potential.

These terms have permeated through our society over the last few decades pushed further forward with the introduction of the Equality Act 2010 and wider global events.

It is pivotal that within the environment and conservation sector that we centre and act on within these terms if we are to be ever closer in achieving environmental and climate justice, something the sector has currently failed to do.



Pond Dipping



Photo: @Penny Dixie

<sup>1</sup> Parks and green spaces highlight inequalities in society. There is evidence that the quality of parks and green spaces is worse in areas of lower income. Minorities are often marginalised in terms of access to green space, in addition to the other areas of discrimination they face.

<sup>2</sup> People strongly agreeing that 'my local green spaces are within easy walking distance' are more likely to be aged between 35 and 64, those from white backgrounds, those who live in the most affluent areas and those who live in more rural areas.

<sup>3</sup> 3.1% of environment professionals identify as minorities with 0.6% identifying as non-white minorities. In comparison, 19.9% of all occupations identify as minorities, with 12.1% identifying as non-white minorities.

<sup>4</sup> A qualitative study consulted three specific communities: disabled adults, unpaid adult carers and unpaid child carers and found that, whilst disabled adults, their families and carers are keen to reach parks and points of natural beauty, they are often faced with many barriers such as transport, gates & pathways and lack of seating and provision of toilets.

Photo: @Pexels

Photo: @Penny Dixie





Photo: © Pexels

Why should we care to do anything about these points and how does this have anything to do with our mission to create a wilder Derbyshire and to tackle the larger climate emergency, you may ask. We could have listed a host of other glaring lived experiences alongside these studies. From accounts of safety concerns from historically marginalised groups to the “inaccessibility” of roles in sector. The privilege of achieving a higher education and the networks to academia it brings to succeed in the sector.

To me all this has been asking...how are we ever going to achieve such an important ambitious mission without truly including everyone. We need to acknowledge the role

individuals and people play in tackling the climate emergency and would go as far as to say that if the home truths above remain true in 30 years' time or even 10 years' time, we will be nowhere near achieving the mission we have set out to do. One of the largest risks to our mission is in not addressing barriers to nature's green and blue spaces and the accessibility of roles in the sector: people must be inbuilt in our mission. It is not a 'nice' thing to do, it is a must do. We know that there are huge benefits of wilder, greener and bluer spaces for not just wildlife but for people too. There are physical, mental and social benefits, as well as economic benefits for the wider society.

Why would you not want to respect, value and celebrate individuals? Why would you not want to encourage every individual to discover, grow and create their journey with nature and wildlife, through which they will discover and channel the part they play in aiding a wilder Derbyshire, and beyond. We need to centre people in our discussions, recognising and encouraging difference. It is within this we can collectively find solutions to the climate crisis.

Nature is for everyone; we truly mean all. We actively need to start acknowledging when we are excluding individuals and do something about it. We need to know whose voices we are missing, who does not have a seat, we need to value and seek all lived experiences and positionalities if we are going to address a very human problem.

We often are quick to understand and celebrate the importance of diversity and inclusion when we look to nature. We are excited by the richness of diversity in our ecosystems, and when this thrives, as wildlife enthusiasts, we celebrate, as we know this difference is to be celebrated. Why would we then struggle to do the same through ensuring a diverse and inclusive culture is inbuilt within environmental justice.

## References

1. Julian Dobson, Cathy Harris, Will Eadson, Tony Gore, (2019), Space to thrive: A rapid evidence review of the benefits of parks and green spaces for people and communities.
2. Natural England, (2019), Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment – The national survey on people and the natural environment. Headline report 2019.
3. The Policy Exchange, (2017), The two sides of diversity: Which are the most ethnically diverse occupations?, [www.policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/The-two-sides-of-diversity-2.pdf](http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/The-two-sides-of-diversity-2.pdf)
4. Your Park Bristol and Bath (2022) Not just a check box: Equitable access to parks for disabled people and unpaid carers. An overview of evidence and recommendations.



Peak District – Thornhill, Photo: © Sam Rose



Photo: © Ewie & Tom Photography



# Nature FOR ALL

## Ms Josephine Ewoma, MSc.

Protecting our natural world is essential for functioning ecosystems and, by extension, human wellbeing. As the biodiversity crises persists, there are concerns about food and water scarcity, as well as the increases in zoonotic diseases, for example. Similarly, the impacts of the climate crisis are already being realised – extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and devastating. Therefore, it is necessary for people to actively engage with environmental issues and strive to protect our natural world. Beyond the benefits to the environment, there's the added benefits to society when people are connected to and protecting nature.



Photo: © Paul Harris 2020/VISION

It has been projected that by 2050 nearly 70% of the global population will live in cities. With this in mind, it's important to find space for nature in our urban landscapes through public green spaces, such as parks, community gardens, urban forests and natural reserves. Public green spaces are essential for mental health and wellbeing, as well as reconnecting people with nature. An increase in public engagement with nature will increase the likelihood that people will have empathy for nature in a way that supports conservation.

Research has shown that proximity to green space has been found to improve psychological health, decreasing maternal depression, increasing social cohesion, and increasing general psychological wellbeing. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has stated that urban green spaces are a “necessary component for delivering healthy, sustainable, liveable conditions”.

But not everyone has equal access to green spaces. There is a disparity between different races and classes and their ability to connect with nature.



Drakelow. Photo: © Lousie Baker



Photo: © Pexels



Allestree Park

Green spaces are often unequally distributed between white and racial/ethnic minority communities, which is an issue of environmental injustice. While studies reveal the deprivation of racialised people's to access green spaces, socioeconomically disadvantaged neighbourhoods also have poor green space access. Addressing this issue requires a concerted effort from governments, private organisations, and communities to ensure that everyone has equal access to these vital public spaces.

Growing up situated between two large public parks, and having access to a garden, greatly improved my quality of life as a child. The memories I have of spending long spring afternoons mesmerised by the array of insects in my garden shaped my appreciation for wildlife and sparked my passion for protecting our planet – but it is not lost on me that this is not a privilege afforded to all.

Many people today are disconnected from nature, and as a result, they struggle to understand the importance of protecting the environment. This lack of understanding makes creating policies that lead to meaningful change challenging. Therefore, there is a need for greater education and awareness campaigns to help people understand the importance of nature and its role in our lives, as well as advocating for equitable access to green spaces.

As we continue to face the climate and biodiversity crises, it is becoming increasingly clear that protecting our natural world is essential for our survival.

Reconnecting with nature is crucial to protect our environment, as well as for our mental and physical well-being.

We should be striving to not only reconnect with nature, but also connecting various groups within our society. Community will play an integral role in protecting our natural world, and this requires everyone to be involved in the movement to have the greatest impact.

It is a collective responsibility that requires education, awareness, and action at all levels of society. Governments and corporations have a fundamental role to play in protecting the environment, and it is up to us as citizens to demand that they act in the best interests of the planet. We can also all take small steps to improve our connection with nature, such as gardening, hiking, or simply practising mindfulness when we're outside. By working together, we can create a more sustainable and healthier world for ourselves and for future generations.

<sup>1</sup> [www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview](http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview)

<sup>2</sup> [www.ourworldindata.org/urbanization#by-2050-more-than-two-thirds-of-the-world-will-live-in-urban-areas](http://www.ourworldindata.org/urbanization#by-2050-more-than-two-thirds-of-the-world-will-live-in-urban-areas)



# Nextdoor Nature

## HELPING BRING NATURE TO DERBY'S INNER-CITY COMMUNITIES

Community Organiser Adam Dosunmu Slater reflects on his first year in his Nextdoor Nature role



Last year all of the Wildlife Trusts around Britain began their Nextdoor Nature initiative, which started a new approach to connecting and working with communities. With a focus on targeting underrepresented demographics, Trusts were asked to create 'community organiser' positions that would take up the task.

You may be wondering, as I was when I took up the role, what is a community organiser? In short, a community organiser will bring people together around a social issue or cause to bring about change. It was popularised by figures like Saul Alinsky, an American who first coined the term and created the Industrial Areas Foundation, a group that specialized in supporting community organising in the 1940s.

Although I didn't expect to be leading any protests or facilitating civil movements, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust do have a cause – establishing more connections with nature and creating more space for wildlife.

In our target areas of Normanton, Arboretum and Alvaston both of our targets were lacking, with green deprivation and many communities unable to access much nature. Yet, once I began talking and connecting with the local people and groups,

I surprisingly saw communities passionate about changing that.

Making connections and building trust is a key first step for any community organiser. Having worked for the Derby West Indian Community Association, an Arboretum-based community group that supports the African/Caribbean diaspora, I already had a connection and mutual trust with similar local groups.



Joyce Grundy, Adam - Hadhari Derby



Society Place School Visit



Pakistan Community Centre Winter HAF



When speaking to these groups, the community organiser technique was to find out their wants, rather than telling them what to do. There was a mixed bag of responses. Some groups like the Hadhari project, a centre set up to support the older Caribbean community, wanted help creating a community garden. Others, like the Pakistan Community Centre, felt education, starting with the youth, was key to making lasting changes in attitude.

Local park events were also crucial for building connections. I was pleased to have individuals like Kelly come up to our stall and discuss how she wanted to organise her neighbours around a disused allotment on their Alvaston estate. Others spoke of their hopes to organise bee highways on their streets.

Figuring out how to support these ideas was the next task. A big barrier to embarking on green projects is feeling like you don't have the expertise to do so. This is where our great volunteers and staff came in, like Emma Harpham who visited the Hadhari Project to talk through a plan of action and give advice on what was possible.

Alongside the support of community groups, the Nextdoor Nature initiative has also looked to organise the community around

making space for wildlife. Although quite a difficult task due to the city centre location, there are lots of small pockets of green space in Normanton and Arboretum. However, these spaces often attract fly tipping, littering and anti-social behaviour.

Seeing that these areas are causing problems for residents, Derby City Council asked to partner with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to find a solution. With the community organiser hat on, I felt it would be best to put these areas back into the hands of the people who live there. The first area, Society Place, a walkway in Arboretum, has been redesigned for wildlife by the students at Arboretum Primary School and will be managed by the community going forward.

As the summer approaches I hope we will start to see the various projects come to life and more people taking action for nature, in line with our 2030 target.

For more information see: [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/nextdoor-nature-lottery-fund](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/nextdoor-nature-lottery-fund)





# NATURE IS GOOD FOR US

## THE POSITIVE IMPACT NATURE HAS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Emma Dickinson-Wood – Wild Wellbeing Team Leader

**Nature is good for us. Research has proven that spending time outside in nature is good for our physical and mental health. People who connect with nature every day are more active and mentally resilient, experience reduced social isolation and loneliness and have better all-round health.**

We have delivered several wellbeing projects that demonstrate the benefits of nature and wildlife to people's wellbeing.

**At Cherry Tree Close, Kingsway Hospital,** we worked with patients on a mental health rehabilitation and recovery unit. The Wild Wellbeing team and health professionals co-designed the programme. The aim was to increase nature connection and improve wellbeing whilst creating wildlife habitats and features to benefit the local community.



Cherry Tree Close, Kingsway Hospital

The hospital staff highlighted the benefits the patients have experienced,

*“It was noted that those experiencing anxiety appeared to have a reduction in anxiety-related symptoms whilst participating and that the facilitation of groups within the natural and open space often encouraged service users who don't usually enjoy group environments to engage.”*



Bird box making

### Case study: Patient Z

Patient Z had not been out of their room for two weeks since arriving at the unit. Upon hearing about the Wildlife Trust's sessions to create wildlife habitats, patient Z came out of their room to join the session and fully participated, making bird feeders. During the next couple of sessions we spent time chatting about wildlife and discovered that they had great knowledge and love of birds. Following the first wildlife session the occupational therapists were then able to begin engaging with patient Z and now, with support, they are regularly going bird watching in the local community.



Bug hotel

Patient X's Wildflower meadow in a tyre  
© Emma Dickinson-Wood

### Case study: Patient X

Patient X, who had been observed to have difficulty adhering to social norms, sharing with peers and respecting boundaries, came to our sessions. They spent time on their phone during the early programme and their participation was limited. Over the course of the programme many things changed for patient X. They became determined to do the activities, faced the driving rain to create a wildflower meadow in a tyre, built bird boxes and bird tables, and worked collaboratively with their peers and staff. This patient found a love of building and working hands on through the creation of wildlife habitats.

*“At the start of the wildlife group I would be on my phone a lot. I was selfish by using up the lady's time. However, at the end, I was caring towards others, committed to the task, able to work as a team. My social skills have improved. I feel more caring towards others.”*





Finlay pond dipping, Derby Arboretum © Kirsty Barker

**The 'Wild Wellbeing Derby' Project ran several wellbeing programmes with groups in Derby. Here we share some of stories from the attendees.**

Finlay, before coming to the sessions, felt alone and disconnected, as he was new to the Derby area. He joined the group to meet new people and learn more about nature.

*"I've really looked forward to the group. I've taken a much keener interest in nature, and when I'm out I take in much more. I notice how individual every plant and leaf is, so many unique parts to nature. I now take a greater interest in my surroundings."*

After taking part in this programme Finlay feels much more confident and positive about the future. He became a volunteer for Derbyshire Mind and supported the next 7-week Wild Wellbeing programme. He loved it so much that he has now also become a Derbyshire Wildlife Trust volunteer so that he can keep progressing on his Wild Wellbeing and nature connection journey.



Jashpreet digging planter, Royal Crown Derby © Kirsty Barker

Jaspreet came along to the sessions as part of his recovery programme at Jericho House. *"I came into rehab/recovery 4 weeks ago, broken, beaten and spiritually bankrupt. Out of touch with reality, myself, nature and the world. Part of the programme in recovery is giving back to the community through volunteering. This group has helped me see the beauty in the world again. Getting in touch with nature and wildlife is spiritually important for me and I'm now seeing nature bigger and brighter each day. I feel more in touch with the world, nature, myself and wildlife – thank you!!"*

Jaspreet finished the programme with a positive determination to let nature and all its benefits back into his daily life again.



Peregrine, Derby Cathedral Webcam



Echinacea flower that is visited by bees on nearly all our wildlife sessions, © Emma Dickinson-Wood

It's not only getting out into nature that benefits our wellbeing: connecting just by looking at nature and natural objects in pictures or on screens also has a positive impact on wellbeing. Evidence of this has been demonstrated by the Derby Cathedral Peregrine project. People from across the globe watch our webcams and have let us know the benefits that they have felt.

*Ann, "...Earlier this year I underwent major surgery and was very anxious to leave hospital in time to witness the hatchings. I'm sure that watching the webcams and commenting on the blog helped my recovery along – my consultant remarked that other people of my age (67 then) took much longer!..."*

*Olive, "Ever since I stumbled onto the website at a low time in my life I have seen it go from strength to strength and I cannot imagine it not being part of my life and I will continue to check in all year long."*

**Here at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust we like to provide opportunities for everyone to improve their wellbeing through connecting with nature and making nature a part of your everyday life. To find out more about how you can connect with nature from wherever you are, whether from inside your home or getting outside, visit our wellbeing pages for activities, videos, films of our nature reserves and much more. [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/about/health-wellbeing](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/about/health-wellbeing)**







# The Derby WEST INDIAN Community



DWICA's Youth Social Action group visit Green Thyme's allotment plot on Normanton park

**In 1955, one of Derby's oldest community groups was formed – The Derby West Indian Community Association (DWICA), as a way for the early Windrush generation to advocate and support each other. 68 years later, the association continues to be a support for the black community from its Arboretum-based centre, which was opened in 1982.**

The charity is most known for its Caribbean Carnival, which has brightened the streets of Derby every July since 1975. DWICA was also instrumental in setting up various sports teams, providing educational support through its summer school, which has run since the 1980s, and more recently as an advice centre for Windrush scandal victims.

Despite many from the Windrush generation coming from agricultural backgrounds in their home country and with the Caribbean being home to the most diverse ecosystem in

the world, DWICA have never done any work with nature and the environment.

This has all changed this year following the launch of their BBC Children in Need-funded Youth Social Action project. In a sign of the changing attitude in the younger generation, they ditched the social issues of the day and chose a project centred on the environment crisis and engaging with nature.

For the youth worker in charge of the project, Hollie White, this was a welcome change:

*“Quite a few of the young people we work with don't have gardens or access to green space on a weekly basis. It's hard to access if you are a family without a car and can get expensive if travelling on public transport when you have a lot of kids,” Hollie said, “That's a shame as I know the benefits of being around nature. I'm a trained therapist so I have learnt how uplifting being around nature can be for mental health.”*



DWICA's young people plan their allotment site

Hollie, who has been the Children and Young People's Officer for two years has already seen a change in her cohort. *“They love connecting with the natural environment and it helps me out as they are all calmer and the behaviour is much better.”*

Part of the project involves the young people managing a plot on the Normanton Park Allotment site, which they are in the process of re-designing.

*“They (the children) have been designing what they want the plot to look like and deciding what produce they'd like to grow,” Hollie said. “They also wanted to make a home for wildlife, so they've designed a wild area on the allotment too.”*

Hollie has high hopes for the allotment, inspired by other groups which use the Normanton site, like Disability Direct's Plot2Plate and the community allotment charity Green Thyme, who have run sessions for DWICA this year.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are also supporting DWICA's project, putting on sessions which discussed what environmental social action looked like. In the summer, the Trust will give more opportunities for the group to engage with nature at our reserves. This type of support for local city groups has come from our Nextdoor Nature initiative (see page 16) and the Trust is committed to guiding smaller groups on their 'green' journeys.

Although a change from the norm for DWICA, Hollie recognises the great benefits projects like these can bring.

*“The social action project and allotment will be a great outlet for the young people,” she said. “At lot of them feel quite helpless, especially around big issues like climate change, but this project helps them feel like they have a voice and some power to make some positive changes in this world.”*

**Inspired by the project and want to get involved? Contact us for volunteer opportunities.**



DWICA's Youth Social Action group visit Green Thyme's allotment plot on Normanton park



DWICA's young people plan their allotment site



# SUMMER delights

Nick Brown – Wildlife Enquiries Officer

Summer to many means barbeques, ice creams and dozing off in the garden, but to a wildlife enthusiast it means something else. To me, summer means marvelling at dragonflies, it means finding wildflower meadows and it means sitting watching my garden pond. Oh, and doubtless devouring a few ice creams to boot!

I've always been a fan of dragonflies and their smaller relatives, the damselflies. Quite apart from their ancient lineage, being almost unchanged during the last 50 million years, there aren't too many Derbyshire species to grapple with. And most are big and showy and easy to identify, especially if you can persuade them to perch and you have either some binoculars or a smartphone whose camera has a good zoom facility.

In the lowlands, two common species to enjoy are the banded demoiselle and the emperor dragonfly. The demoiselle favours running water. The show-off males can be seen flitting over a stream or river or perching prominently on overhanging reeds. Their wings have a deep blue 'band' and their bodies are metallic blue. They spend their time displaying and chasing one another over the water whereas the demure females, which are green, remain hidden in the marginal vegetation.

Emperor dragonflies are large by comparison and they are still-water specialists as indeed are most of our local species. Again it is the males that you will see parading endlessly back and forth above lakes. They rarely perch except at night and in sunless weather. Their strikingly all-blue abdomens have a black line running down them, the main identification feature when seen flying. Again, unless you catch one egg-laying, the females are shy and remain in cover until ready to mate.

**The British Dragonfly Society's website is a mine of photos and information about these brilliant insects.**



Emperor Dragonfly (male)  
© Tony Pioli

Male banded demoiselle © Matt Cole



Southern Hawker laying eggs at a garden pond © Nick Brown

You won't see an emperor over garden ponds unless they are very large. Instead it will most likely be a southern hawker, another large and brightly coloured insect, but one that regularly visits gardens to feed, even those without ponds. My garden pond is no more than a few metres in diameter but every August, a female southern hawker arrives and lays her eggs in the rotting log I deliberately placed at the pond edge to attract her. She lays her eggs one by one into the wet wood, oblivious to my camera lens within inches of her. Within a week or two, the eggs hatch and tiny larval dragonflies drop into the water to start their long predatory lives which may last for two or three years.

Higher up in the county, mainly above the 800 metre contour and on acid soils

over gritstone, with luck you might come across the rather rare but unmistakable gold-ringed dragonfly. This is a large insect which breeds in small fast-flowing moorland streams, the predatory larvae burying themselves in the bottom sediment to prevent being washed downstream. The large adults are a striking black with gold rings. Meanwhile, one of our smallest dragonflies, the black darter, seeks out small pools on the moors. The males are also black with yellow markings but be aware that they are really small – less than a couple of inches long!

Dragonflies only fly in sunny weather. If it's a dull day, then head for a wildflower meadow, though of course these too look a lot better if the sun is out.



Gold ringed dragonfly perching on a sock  
© Guy Badham



Black Darter  
© Guy Badham





Musk mallow © Nick Brown

I am lucky to live near some very good wildflower meadows, which are on a small estate only a few miles from home. Fortunately the owner is passionate about wildlife. Working with his tenant farmer, he manages several large fields especially for their wonderful wildflowers. The yellow of lady's bedstraw and the pink of musk mallow dazzle the eye, along with the blue of meadow cranesbill, tufted vetch and knapweed and the white of hundreds of oxeye daisies. Given that we have lost close to 100% of our wildflower meadows, it is such a joy to see fields like these with so much beauty and life in them. The Trust manages several wildflower meadows, such as those at Hartington Meadows and Crich Chase Reserves.

Come mid-August in my garden, when the buddleias have gone over, I have other plants that insects, such as hoverflies, wasps and butterflies, can feed on. These include the wonderfully architectural fennel, golden rod and hemp agrimony, all of which I recommend you grow in your gardens. The hemp agrimony is a bit of a 'thug', growing very tall. So each June I cut it down to a third of its height in what is known as 'the Chelsea chop'. This means its flowerheads will be only four or five feet high, compared to the six or seven feet they would have been otherwise.

In addition I put out rotting fruit such as bananas, damsons and plums in late

August and September when even these late flowering plants have gone over. I make simple 'fruit trays', a bit like bird tables but lower down so I can see them easily and place the 'attractant fruit' on them out in the sun. Last summer I also put out small dishes of grenadine. This is a very sweet (but non-alcoholic) red juice which really draws wasps and particularly red admirals. I was amazed at just how fast twenty or more wasps found the grenadine as soon as I put it out and how quickly they slurped it up! Comma butterflies seem to prefer the rotting damsons and bananas. The latter also attracted speckled wood butterflies, a species I was not expecting to lure.

**Why not give this a go come September? It costs next to nothing but proves highly entertaining – at least to a naturalist!**



Ladies bedstraw and Knapweed © Nick Brown

I really like wasps. I know some people are allergic to them and many find them a nuisance, but I believe we need to adopt a much more positive attitude to them and do away with those nasty 'wasp traps' that you see at almost every outdoor eating venue. By putting out sweet liquids or 'squidgy' fruit, the wasps will be drawn away from your jam bun or ice cream and head for these 'lures'.

**Why not give it a go?**

And if you are open to changing your attitude to wasps, do read Seirian Summer's fascinating and funny new book on wasps which is now out in paperback. It is called *Endless Forms* (subtitled 'Why we should love wasps') and is published by William Collins Books. As their blurb says, "it is an eye opening roadmap to the mesmerising diversity and ingenuity of this long overlooked member of the insect world".

Finally, if you are remotely interested in birds, why not try to 'connect' with a small but rather elusive bird of prey which has increased in numbers in the county over the last 30 years? The enigmatic hobby is a falcon, a smaller relative of the peregrine. It is a true summer migrant, arriving back here from Africa in May and leaving again in September.

Hobbies often feed on insects like dragonflies, so, once their late breeding season is over, they can sometimes be seen at wetland sites chasing and catching dragonflies in particular.

Willington Wetlands and Carr Vale reserves are the best places to look for them. Select a hot afternoon with only a slight breeze and you may strike lucky!

Male and female hobbies look alike. They have white faces with a black moustache, their backs are slaty grey-blue and the tops of their legs, amusingly called their 'trousers', are bright orange-red. In flight they have pointed wings and they can produce remarkable turns of speed as they dive down just above the water to catch a dragonfly with their talons. Swooping upwards, they bring their prey to their beaks, snip off the inedible wings and devour the bodies.



Wasp © iStock

When hobbies first arrive back in May, they congregate over large wetlands such as those on the Somerset Levels. There it is possible to see forty or more in the air together, each one intent on catching one of the many early-emerging dragonflies. It is a sight to behold and one I have been fortunate enough to witness several times. Hobbies are one of the very few raptors which are agile and fast enough to hunt swifts, though it is rare that they try.

**Now that is something I've never seen but will be trying to this summer. Wish me luck – I'll need it!**



Hobby © iStock



# Leave the WORLD A BETTER PLACE



Leaving a gift in your will to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust will help to make sure we can plan far ahead and achieve our vision of landscapes rich in wildlife, valued by everyone. Our plans for leading nature's recovery, inspiring people and communities to care and mobilising people to act are far-reaching, and to be sure we can see them through we need to know we will receive income in the future.

## THINKING ABOUT MAKING A WILL IS SOMETHING THAT LOTS OF US PUT OFF, FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have teamed up with Guardian Angel to be able to offer our members a free will writing service. This service provides access to expert advice to answer any questions you have while considering making or changing your will.

For more information and an opportunity to make a will for free, please see: [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/legacy](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/legacy)



Sheila Bentley

## SHEILA BENTLEY HAD A LIFELONG INTEREST IN NATURE

Our mother Sheila Bentley, who died in April aged 84, left a legacy of £1000 to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in her will.

She was very clear that she wanted to help the good work of the DWT, having been a member of the Trust for nearly 60 years.

Sheila had a lifelong interest in nature and especially in wild flowers and botany, which she had studied at school.

She and our late father, Roy Bentley, were among the original members of the DWT when it first started in 1962, not long after they moved from London to set up home in Duffield.

They both loved the Derbyshire countryside, with Roy particularly interested in birdwatching, geology and the history of the landscape.

Some years after Roy died, Sheila was very pleased and touched to be invited to an evening at the DWT's headquarters in Middleton to commemorate the founding of the Trust.

For much of her retirement, Sheila was a keen rambler in Derbyshire. In later years she enjoyed family outings with her grandchildren to beautiful places such as Cromford Canal, where we spotted the little grebes amongst the moorhens and ducks.

Our mum left a legacy to the DWT because she wanted to help preserve Derbyshire's wildlife beyond her lifetime. She wanted future generations to be able to enjoy precious nature just as she and Roy had done.

**Stephanie Bentley and Vicky Cross**



Sheila and Roy

Sheila with snowdrops

Sheila and Roy

## LEGACY PLEDGE

Whilst many members and supporters may plan to leave us a gift in their will, very few tell us. However, as we plan for the future of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust it can be useful for us to know if people do intend to support us. We don't need to know any details other than that they intend to make a bequest. If you would like to let us know, please do contact us. The details are below.

For more information about making or updating your will, we would always advise you to contact a solicitor in the first instance. If you would like to talk to someone and find out more about remembering the Trust in your will or to let us know about a gift you have already pledged to us, please contact Mark Heaven, Head of Fundraising, on 01773 881188, email [mheaven@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:mheaven@derbyshirewt.co.uk) or write to us at our main Middleton office.





Making bird feeders, Carsington Junior Rangers © Diane Gould



Making bat boxes, Carsington © Diane Gould



Ben and bird box



Holmoorside Primary making Ben's bird boxes © Diane Gould

# JUNIOR RANGERS

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

**Diane Gould – Wilder Engagement Manager**

We started our first Junior Ranger group in 2019 at Carsington Water in partnership with the Severn Trent rangers. Despite a break due to lockdown the group has gone from strength to strength and is now a team of 18 members. We even have a waiting list to join. During monthly sessions at Carsington the group have learnt skills in practical conservation through activities such as scrub cutting, creating dead hedges, growing plants for pollinators and tree planting. They have taken part in campaign activities to promote helping bees and run engagement events with members of the public.

The sessions give like-minded young people the opportunity to come together to help nature whilst gaining important skills, knowledge and experiences that could help them forge careers in conservation in the future. Working with young people in this way allows us the chance to spot the talents and interests they may have and help signpost them to other opportunities to help them develop further.

From the very start of the group, it was clear to us that Ben loved his woodwork activities. He enthusiastically took to any task that involved tools and wood. He quickly emerged as a group leader, taking additional responsibility and guiding the younger or less experienced rangers during these sessions. When our regular supplier of bird box kits stopped making them, I was in no doubt where to go to ask for some help. Thanks to Ben we have been able to continue making bird boxes with groups across Derbyshire and we hope his story will inspire other young people to help nature and to know that they can make a difference.

Junior Rangers has been so successful (and a lot of fun to work on as a leader) that we have now set up two further groups, based at Woodside Farm in Shipley and the Avenue Country Park in Chesterfield. With our new Learning Through Nature project we also plan to set up further groups across the county to help even more young people get active in conservation.

“ My name is Ben and I’m 14 years old. I started going to Junior Rangers in 2020 because I enjoyed spending time outdoors and wanted to learn more about conservation.

During the last couple of years, we’ve done some really interesting stuff, including planting a bee garden, making seed bombs, educating the public about the importance of bees and even making a short film! I really enjoy spending time with like-minded people and have made a nice group of friends. For me, though, aside from the hot chocolate & biscuits, the best bits of Rangers is doing practical stuff – particularly working with wood, as woodcraft is a hobby of mine.

Last spring we started making bird boxes but, unfortunately, the company who usually supplied the kits couldn’t anymore – we didn’t let that put us off, though, and we started to hand saw them instead! We managed to do most of them but ran out of time to cut the roofs so I offered to take them home and cut the remaining bits with my bandsaw! Just before Christmas my mum got an email from our leader, Diane, asking if I’d like to make the bird box kits for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and I jumped at the chance!

I’ve really enjoyed doing this and have learnt a lot about sourcing supplies, making estimates, trialling designs and making jigs to accurately pre-drill the holes for the nails. I’ve made around 50 kits now. I’m really grateful for the opportunity Diane & the Wildlife Trust have given me – I hope people enjoy making the kits into bird boxes! ”

**If you are interested in ordering a bird box kit from Ben please email: [ben@bkwoodcrafts.co.uk](mailto:ben@bkwoodcrafts.co.uk)**



# Working together for wildlife

**CORRECTION:** In our last edition, when referring to the 50/50 Club, we stated that match funding through certain funders means that the £10,000 raised through the club was worth £20,000 to our work.

In fact, match funding can reach ratios of up to 10:1 for some funders, and so up to £10 can be released for every £1 contributed in this way. This means up to £100,000 has been released through the 50/50 Club. Thank you to all the players for their support.

## 50/50 Club winners

Congratulations to recent winners!

Jackie & Alistair Blackett,  
Dr David Gibbons, Jane Cooper,  
Jill Hounslow-Eyre, Paul Andrews,  
Ray Worthy, Clifford Dobson,  
Dennis & Janet Smith and  
Mr & Mrs S J Crook



As per the last edition Brian & Margaret will sadly be leaving the 50/50 Club, at the end of this year. If you are looking for another way to support the Trust, you might like to

know that we have partnered with Unity to launch a

lottery to support our work across Derbyshire. Every entry directly supports us, and the maximum prize each week is £25,000. Prize draw every Friday!

**For more information visit:**  
[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/lottery](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/lottery)



# Working in Partnership



## Trentbarton on board with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Trentbarton has kicked off its new partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust by creating a route map showing the Trust's nature reserves that can be visited on some of Trentbarton's routes across Derbyshire.

The guide – which can be found under 'show me' at [www.trentbarton.co.uk/network-map](http://www.trentbarton.co.uk/network-map) – is designed to encourage people to enjoy visiting nature in Derbyshire without using cars. Scarlet McCourt, Marketing and Communications Manager at Trentbarton, said: "We're very excited about our new partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, which does so much to enhance and protect our wildlife around the county."

"It was fascinating to see how many of the Trust's nature reserves can be reached by travelling on our buses. Taking the bus to see nature is a double win, for our wildlife and for cleaner air and the wider environment."

If you would like to support Derbyshire Wildlife Trust through innovative ideas like this, or find out about other ways that corporate partnerships can benefit your company and employees while also supporting nature, please visit [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) or email [phodges@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:phodges@derbyshirewt.co.uk)

## We are proud to be working in partnership with:

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| JC Deceaux                               |  |



If your business would like to get involved, please get in touch on: [enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk)





Steve Cooke, a volunteer since DRS began in 2015



# My WILDLIFE

INTERVIEW BY ADAM DOSUNMU SLATER – COMMUNITY ORGANISER

**Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity's Steve Cooke talks with Community Organiser for the Nextdoor Nature initiative, Adam Dosunmu Slater, about how their allotment and community garden brings Asylum Seekers a much-needed release.**

## Tell us about Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity: how did it start and what does the group do?

I started with Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity when it first began back in 2015. It started when I saw pictures of a young Syrian boy called Alan Kurdi, whose body was washed up on the beach in Greece along with his brother and mother. That photograph went around the world and a group of us in Derby decided we wanted to form the group. We began with collecting clothes for Calais and now we have grown to become a community centre that offers English lessons, music classes and bicycle hire to 120 asylum seekers each week at St Annes Church near the city centre.

## Why is it so important for Asylum Seekers to have activities to do?

In Derby and the surrounding areas, we have 1,500 asylum seekers living in temporary hotel accommodations. It has caused controversy and protesters, but these people

have nothing to do. They are not allowed to work for at least a year and if their claim is not completed, they are given a limited list of jobs. So, they are left to sit in their hotels or walk around on the streets.

## You also have a community garden and allotment?

Well, it all started probably five years ago when someone offered me the chance for an allotment plot free of charge if I could get refugees to clear it. I took the offer as I knew everyone would enjoy it and would help relieve the pressures that many asylum seekers have. Every one of them has some sort of trauma or PTSD, whether from leaving their homes, the journey here, or the asylum process in this country. It's been proven so many times the benefits being in nature can bring. People calm down and relax, so for a couple of hours they (asylum seekers) don't think about the stress and that's why we started it. We now have another allotment that's closer, and a small garden at the church provides a quiet and relaxed space.

## Do any of the asylum seekers have a background in this work?

Yes, several of them. One of our current group, Arslam from Iraq, used to be a farmer, and when he gets his right to remain, he would like to get into doing that. One of the first people we had from Iran three years ago, a lad called Omid, told us he was a shepherd. So, yes lots of people with a background in one farming or the other and they love being at the allotment.

## What would you say to people who may have negative views on asylum seekers?

Come and meet the people you have concerns about, because when you look and see their pain, you will change your view. I have seen evidence of it, you'll realise they are just humans like us. My mother is 95, she was born and bred here in Derby. At the age of 11, on the 3rd of September 1939 she became an asylum seeker because the children of Derby were evacuated. She left her parents, her brothers and sisters to live somewhere else for four years. She was an asylum seeker. So, we have to realise that this could happen to any of us and we are lucky if it doesn't.

[www.derbyshirerefugeesolidarity.org](http://www.derbyshirerefugeesolidarity.org)



Asylum Seekers enjoy the community garden



Asylum Seekers enjoy an afternoon in the Peak District



Asylum Seekers enjoy an afternoon in the Peak District



Omid the Shepherd works hard at the allotment plot





**Derbyshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# Leave a gift

# FOR NATURE

**“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](mailto:enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk)

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