

Autumn | Winter 2018 - 2019

Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust



Wild Derbyshire

Your membership magazine



www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

Wildside Festival

15th June 2019, Ilkeston

Tickets on sale now
www.wildsidefest.com



Welcome

Michael Gove recently announced a review of England's National Parks. The announcement states that the review will

"focus on how designated areas can boost wildlife, support the recovery of natural habitats and connect more people with nature."

We very much welcome the review. Our National Parks should be our most glorious and special places, the absolute jewels in our crown, places where people fall in love with wildlife. But, depressingly, the evidence shows that most National Parks are less diverse than the rest of our countryside and in some places substantially worse. We all know that many parts of our own National Park are devoid of wildlife.

"We need to change this."

Our National Parks are the obvious place to start developing a Nature Recovery Network - interconnected wild spaces which will restore wildlife, and help reverse the current decline of biodiversity. There are also huge opportunities to re-introduce species back to our National Parks - species that we have lost from our countryside. We need to make our National Parks wilder. Indeed, Michael Gove has himself talked positively about the benefits that rewilding might bring to selected areas of countryside. In an interview with Rob

Yorke for Countryfile Magazine he stated: "My view is that there may be parts of the uplands that are suitable for rewilding". We need to see hen harriers and other birds of prey return to their natural home along with other species like pine martens, red squirrels. Maybe even beavers and golden eagles.

Our National Parks face huge challenges but also huge opportunities. Brexit and the likely changes in farm subsidies could play a role by shifting payments from funding marginal agricultural practices to supporting rewilding projects and the wider range of public services and landscape benefits that a wilder landscape would provide.

The Wildlife Trusts are determined to ensure the National Parks review provides positive opportunities to ensure that wildlife in our National Parks is better protected in the future and that our parks become wilder spaces that we can all enjoy for generations to come. Please keep an eye out for updates on how you can help ensure we achieve this.

Thanks for your continued support. Our wildlife has a more positive future because of you.

Jo Smith

Dr. Jo Smith, CEO

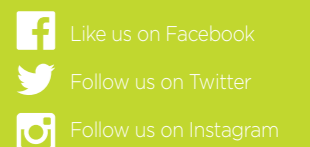


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Join the conversation



On the cover: @photographyfirm/shutterstock

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

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Wild Derbyshire
Published by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Edited by Kaite Helps

Designed by The Message
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Spotted!

You have reported some fantastic sightings recently - here are few of our favourites:



• Red kites have bred in Derbyshire for the first time in over 150 years!



We're working for osprey to nest in Derbyshire
Peter Cairns 2020VISION

• An osprey was spotted just off the A6 outside of Belper several times last spring - it's likely to have been on route to the Scottish Highlands!



Seen something interesting?

Share your sightings with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or at www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting

Defending wildlife

Save our swifts

June saw the UK's first ever Swift Awareness Week with over 90 events held up and down the country to increase awareness about the plight of this charismatic little bird.

We held five walks around Derbyshire's swift hotspots, from Hathersage right down to Melbourne and we were delighted to see an amazing 175 people come along and show their support.

Swifts returned late to Derbyshire and to the rest of the UK this year. This was a real worry as their numbers have already declined by 50% in the past 20 years but more and more people are becoming aware of the lack of swifts in our summer skies and are taking action to help. A great example of this was an order for 100 swift boxes from Hathersage residents following the walks!

These enigmatic birds are extraordinary. They live out their lives entirely on the wing, only landing when they nest. This means that as the young fly off to Southern Africa for the winter, they will stay airborne for two years at least!

Learn more about swifts: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/swifts

Act now: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting



Swifts are the sound of summer
Guy Badham

Bold for badgers

You know by now that we love talking about badgers! This summer we've been hard at work vaccinating as many as possible - the count is up to 149 and we've extended our vaccination area to include Lyme Park in the west of the county and the Eastern Moors over to the east.

And in case you haven't already heard - we are now the Government's national training hub - this meaning we teach people from all across the UK how to vaccinate!

It's a great example of organisations working in partnership for a common cause. Derbyshire Badger Groups, National Trust and RSPB have all pulled together resources with us to make the programme happen. And it's all made possible by a dedicated team of over 100 volunteers.

We will continue to fight against the cull with science.

Read all about our badger work:

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/badger-vaccination

Act now:

Keep this important working going by donating today: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/donate



Rare find

A speckled longhorn (*Pachytodes cerambyciformis*) was found at Rowsley Sidings in June by Kieron Huston. It was the first time he has recorded one in Derbyshire. It is also the first record on the Derbyshire Data Records Database, but not quite a first for the county as there are a few records on the National Biodiversity Network database for the Moss Valley area up towards Sheffield.

The beetle is associated with the exposed roots of fallen trees including willow and birch. In recent years flooding at Rowsley has killed off quite a lot of birch trees, as they fall the roots are exposed which creates ideal conditions for the beetle larvae. The adults are around May to August and can be found (like this one) feeding on umbellifers.

Restoring landscapes

Farm facelift

We are celebrating a generous grant of £43,189 from WREN Community Action Fund to transform Woodside Farm.

The money will be used to improve the visitor experience as we have found that people can get disoriented when exploring this large nature reserve. We will be replacing the existing panels with maps so people know where they are, adding easy to follow trails and we will be signposting to areas which many people do not know even exist such as our viewing tower and our education garden!

Keep up to date with the project progress on Facebook and Twitter.



Large open pools at Hilton Gravel Pits
Kelvin Lawrence

Having fun at Hilton

A new outdoor education area is set to be created at Hilton Gravel Pits Nature Reserve in the Trent Valley thanks to a £23,210 project funded by Veolia Environmental Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Work begins on site this autumn. It will include rustic seating perfect for schools to use for outdoor classrooms, a mini trail so children can learn all about the reserve's wildlife, balance beams and a giant wooden sculpture to climb all over plus areas left wild where children can sweep net and bug hunt.

Hilton Gravel Pits is home to scarce black poplar, great crested newts and a lichen heath where three types of orchids flourish in the summer months. The reserve is also well known for its dragonflies and damselflies, fifteen species breed here, one of the highest concentrations in the county.

Wildside Festival 2019

*Wild ones...are you ready?
Shall we do it all again?*

Wildside Festival will return to Woodside Farm on 15th June 2019.

Tickets on sale now.

Pond dipping, bug hunting, wild theatre, storytelling, live music, wild yoga, wild drumming and lots more - with great food and drink, on a nature reserve, under the summer sun - all in support of local wildlife!

Tickets: www.wildsidefest.com

It's a yes from HLF!

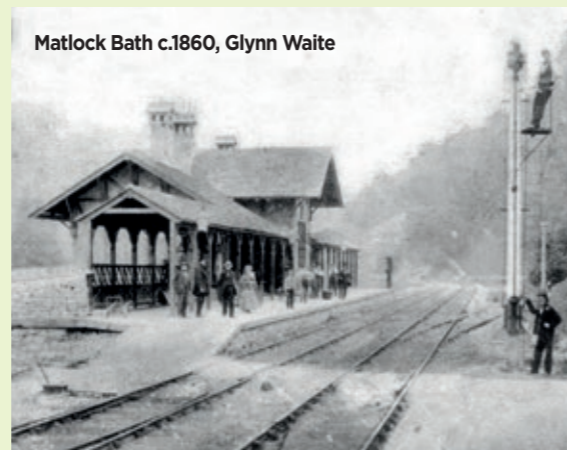
Our vision for The Whistlestop Discovery Centre in Matlock Bath is to be realised following the award of a National Lottery grant of £83,200.

The funding will enable us to reroof the historically important Grade II listed building and continue to restore it to its former glory. We're also working on a playful visitor experience that will celebrate and explore the history of the building.

Back in May your amazing donations helped us raise over £10,000 through our Crowdfunder which we have put towards the match funding for our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Thank you!

Matlock Bath c.1860, Glynn Waite



Looking towards Ladybower Wood
Guy Badham

Species watch



Mistletoe, Zsuzsanna Bird

October – pop down to Wyver Lane to marvel at all the birds that flock here for winter.

November – soak up the last of the autumn colours in one of Derbyshire's ancient woodlands. Try Spring Wood in the south or Ladybower Wood in the North.

December – look above as you go on a winter stroll and you might be lucky enough to spot some mistletoe. Let us know if you do!

January – grab your scarf and perch high above Stoney Middleton to watch clouds of starlings perform their evening ballet.

February – look closely and you might spot the year's first frog spawn in your pond.



Wigeon, Simon Corble



Discovering frog spawn
Mark Hamblin
2020VISION

60 SECOND
EXPERT



Rare butterfly displaying male and female markings found in Derbyshire, Graham Wood

Check out this incredible common blue butterfly which is displaying both male and female markings: Just amazing, and very rare!

It's known as a bilateral gynandromorph which means the left side is female and the right side is male.

Many thanks to Ken Orpe of Butterfly Conservation for sharing the find with us and Graham Wood who took the photo!

Working for Nature

Conservation is such a difficult profession to get into - so many want to be part of the movement but there are so few opportunities, we're working to change that thanks to a grant of £750,000 from The Heritage Lottery Fund.

The support is enabling us to work with Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on a four year project to train 24 people. The training programme will see the recruits study for their Level 2 Environmental Conservation Certificate as well as receiving internal training from all three Trusts that will equip them with habitat and species management skills.

The generous funding will also mean 100 people will take part in the John Muir Discovery Award.

Find out more www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/working-nature

ACT NOW

Make it because of you

Our volunteers work tirelessly to help us in every aspect of our work, across the whole county.

It's a group of like-minded people striving to make a difference to their local community, helping protect Derbyshire's wildlife and wild spaces. Amazing!

But we need to do so much more and we need your help to do it!

Fancy it? Here's where we need you most this winter...

Together, we can make great things happen

#becauseofyou

Derwent Valley

If you live in the Derwent Valley you have a choice of habitats to work in. Wyver Lane on the outskirts of Belper is an important wetland lying next to the River Derwent and Lea Wood is a semi-natural ancient woodland just outside of Cromford.

At Lea Wood rhododendron clearance is a continuous job. This invasive species, needs cutting and burning in order to restore the oak woodland.

Willow coppicing at Wyver Lane is a key area of work that needs to be carried out to minimise scrub encroachment on wet grassland which is a relatively scarce habitat in Derbyshire.

When: Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays

Start: 9.30am

Erewash Valley

From a farm to canal restoration there is always a lot that needs doing in the Erewash Valley!

Habitat work and reserve maintenance at Erewash Meadows just outside of Jacksdale is constant in order to manage the important floodplain and flower rich grasslands which is home to lapwing and water voles.

At Woodside Farm and Mapperley Wood we need people who are confident with heavy duty farm work and we're always on the lookout for people with livestock management skills (or the desire to learn them!)

When: Mondays and Tuesdays

Start: 9.30am

Trent Valley

A former industrial area of Derbyshire in the south of the county. The tasks carried out here can be great fun, but are very labour intensive. The wetland habitats attract many rare birds.

These areas are a haven for wildlife comprising of riverside, lakes and ponds, ditches and reedbeds, willow scrub and marginal grassland. In order to maintain this character and diversity significant habitat management is required and that means we need lots of people on the ground!

When: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays

Start: 9.30am

We'll provide all the tools and training - you just need to bring your waterproofs and lunch!

White Peak, High Peak & Upper Derwent Valley

Gritstone gives way to limestone in the North of Derbyshire with a varied selection of reserve work. In the north it is all about drystone walling and sensitive, sympathetic habitat restoration in some hard to reach locations.

We also need help with path maintenance, fencing repairs and removal of invasive plants. Work needs to be done in moorland, woodland and wetlands so it is a place where you need to be ready for anything - especially the weather!

When: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays

Start: 9.30am

British Business Bank volunteers at Priestcliffe Lees, Julia Gow



Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



Bakewell Shop

Office based at our Head Quarters

Wellies are not needed to volunteer at HQ, honest!

We've got plenty of admin and creative opportunities where you can help. From data-input to preparing welcome packs. Working here you would be enabling the team to be more effective as a whole, meaning we can raise vital funds for local wildlife.

If you fancy doing something awesome for nature, where a boiled kettle is never far away, then we'd love to hear from you.

When: Any day of the week - flexible hours

Where: Middleton-by-Wirksworth, DE4 4LR

On the High Street

Become a High Street Hero and volunteer in our wonderful charity shops. It's a chance to make a valuable contribution to your local community and help raise vital funds to help protect local wildlife and wild spaces.

From serving customers and inspiring them about nature, sorting donations to creating eye catching displays or taking part in local events. You really can help to make a difference.

When: Any day of the week - flexible hours

Where: Belper and Bakewell high streets

Jump on board

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	SIGN UP ONLINE	GET IN TOUCH
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support/volunteer	www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support/volunteer	enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Did you know?

A lot of our reserve work takes place outside the breeding season between September and March each year. This is the time when we can prepare for the influx of wildlife in the coming spring. During the quieter spring and summer months general maintenance is carried out - mowing access tracks, repairing fences, removing non-native species growing in our natural habitats!

"We welcome enthusiastic volunteers of all abilities and interests. Being a Wildlife Trust volunteer it is a truly rewarding experience."

Vic Bevan, Volunteer reserve manager at Witches Oak Water



Earthworm

Saddle worm



Anecic

Anecic earthworms are the most common. They are the largest species, often reddish brown, and they make permanent vertical burrows in soil. They feed on leaves on the soil surface that they drag into their burrows. They make piles of casts around the entrance to their burrows.

Epigeic

Epigeic earthworms don't make burrows, but live on the surface of the soil - often in leaf litter and in compost. They rapidly consume the compost material, and reproduce very quickly. They are usually bright red or reddish-brown, and the compost worms in particular are often stripy!

Redhead worm

Rosy-tipped worm



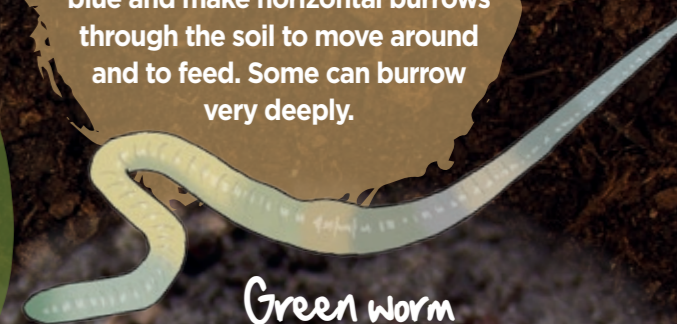
Know your worms

There are three main types of worm in the UK;

Endogeic

Endogeic earthworms are pale coloured - pink, grey, green or blue and make horizontal burrows through the soil to move around and to feed. Some can burrow very deeply.

Green worm



Wild for worms

This year Wild About Gardens* is going wild about worms! These wriggly fellows are super special. Let's get to know them a little better!

Kate Lemon, Erewash Valley Programme Manager



Dig and discover, Tom Marshall

At first glance worms might not seem particularly special, but they're essential for our soil and wildlife.

In fact there are 29 earthworm species in the UK and each one has a slightly different role in our ecosystems.

But let's start with the basics - identifying worms is a lot of fun!

How do I get started?

First of all catch your worm! The obvious way is to dig them up but be very careful, dividing them in two does not result in two worms. Contrary to popular myth both parts cannot survive, only the end with the head and even then the odds are not good.

50% of the worms you will find will be immature and therefore difficult to identify so look for those with a clearly identifiable saddle which shows it is a mature adult.

Fast food

The average lifespan of a worm is 4 - 5 years but of course they are a very popular food source for many birds and animals including badgers, robins, blackbirds, hedgehogs, newts, shrews, gulls, curlews, woodcocks and moles.

Moles dig extensive networks of tunnels and can detect earthworms falling into these from quite a distance! A mole needs to eat the equivalent of its own bodyweight each day and make a store of hundreds of earthworms to last them through the winter. The worms are usually chewed off at the front end so they cannot crawl away, but remain alive and so provide fresh food for several months.



Mole, Pixbay

Worm images:
Corinne Welch



How many worms can you find?
Matthew Roberts



Worm, Niall Benvie
2020VISION



Black-headed
worm

What's on the menu?

When worms aren't being eaten, worms will eat almost anything organic as long as it is dead! Food such as decaying leaves and roots, animal manure, as well as any material found in your garden compost bin are on the menu and they can eat their own bodyweight each day.

They do not damage plants or eat live material, in fact their role in breaking down organic matter is essential for soil fertility.

Engineers of the Earth

The decomposition process releases nutrients and worms speed this up by eating the organic matter, breaking it down into smaller pieces and allowing bacteria and fungi to continue the chemical breakdown and release of nutrients. Where earthworms are present, not only are there more bacteria and fungi, they are more active. These minute life forms release nutrients from organic matter, and are an important source of food in their own right for the many other animals that live in soils.

Worms can also be an essential tool in tackling soil contamination. They can combine metals such as lead and zinc with phosphorus or sulphur in special 'compartments' in their cells. This locks the metals into tiny pellets that come out in the worms' casts. Studies have shown that worms which live in highly toxic soils have evolved to accumulate more pollutants in their tissues than those that live in cleaner soils.

Smooth movers

Worms are crucial for soil structure, effectively ploughing the soil underground as they move through, creating burrows and mixing soil layers. This complex system of tunnels allows movement of oxygen in and carbon dioxide out as well as the free movement of water.

Different species of worm move in different directions, some vertical, to great depths and some horizontal. These tunnels not only allow the movement of gases and water but are also lined with aerobic bacteria and digested leaf litter, stuck together by mucus secreted by the worm, providing essential nutrients for plant roots.

Amazingly in an acre of land there can be 1 million worms present and between 16,000-30,000 lbs (7,200-13,500kg) of soil passes through the worms and is deposited on the surface each year. These casts contain five times more nitrogen, seven times more phosphorus and are 1,000 times more beneficial bacteria than the original soil!

Earthworms use their **skin to breathe** and do not have lungs. They cannot tolerate being out in the open for long as they quickly dehydrate and die.

Earthworms are made up of many ridged segments. They are **covered in minute hairs** which allow them to grip the soil and move.

Did you know?

Worms are hermaphrodites

and have both male and female sexual organs. However they still need to find a mate and exchange sperm to reproduce. To copulate, two worms line up against one another facing opposite directions. In this position, both worms excrete plenty of mucus to create a slime tube around their bodies. Each worm ejaculates sperm from its sex organs into this slime tube and it is then deposited in the other worm's sperm receptacle. Both worms will then go their separate ways and make a cocoon to deposit their eggs and their partner's sperm from which live baby worms will emerge.

5 ways to make your garden a haven for worms

- 1 Make the soil more inviting for them by letting leaf litter accumulate on the surface and not being so quick to tidy up. Rather than rake up leaves from the lawn in the autumn, leave them alone and the worms will soon drag them into the ground, aerating and fertilising your lawn for you at the same time.
- 2 Add mulch to dry soil surfaces to keep the soil damp for the worms and to give them plenty of organic matter to process. Mulches are best applied in the winter and spring when the ground is already wet and before it dries out in the summer through evaporation. Spread the contents of your compost bin on a regular basis too.
- 3 Make the soil more hospitable to worms by watering it regularly. Keeping the ground moist is beneficial to the plants growing there but also aids movement through the ground for worms and other garden invertebrates.
- 4 Dig the soil over as little as possible. The worms can do this for you and avoiding unnecessary digging at any time of the year prevents disturbance and damage to the worms or their burrows. When adding in new plants, keep digging activity to a minimum.
- 5 Worms are very susceptible to the negative effects of any garden chemical so keep an organic garden wherever possible. Use organic sprays and don't use pesticides, fungicides or other toxic substances. Not only can toxic chemicals increase worm mortality, but also they affect the worms' health, functioning ability and fertility.

So there you have it, you are now a worm expert! Make sure you go to pages 36-37 to learn how to make your own compost and how to build a wormery - we think it's a great way for little ones to learn why worms are so special!

Grey worm



P.S. - we know you want to know how worms poo!

First, they eat the organic matter in the soil, such as dead leaves and plants. This breaks it down into smaller pieces, which they then pass out as 'casts', or worm poo. These casts are very high in nutrients that improve the quality of the soil, helping plants to grow.

Find out more

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE WORM BOOKLET	ACT FOR WILDLIFE	SHARE YOUR PHOTOS
www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk	www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/actions	  

*The Wildlife Trusts and the RHS set up Wild About Gardens to celebrate wildlife gardening and to encourage people to use their gardens to take action to help support nature. Many of our common garden visitors - including hedgehogs, house sparrows and starlings - are increasingly under threat. But together we can make a difference - help us turn the UK's estimated 24 million gardens into a network of nature reserves, and invite our wildlife back.

Turn over to make your
home friendly for wildlife

HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

With increasing housing development and expanding towns and villages, it's more important than ever to make sure we welcome wildlife into our neighbourhoods. Libby Dugan-Jones our Biodiversity Planning Officer gives us five ways to help.

As the government sets targets for 1.5 million new homes by 2022, the Wildlife Trusts have released guidance on ecologically appropriate development that incorporates wildlife and green space at the heart of new building projects. We're pushing for developers and architects to consider wildlife at an early stage in the planning process but there is also lots you can do to improve the habitat within your existing home, workplace or community space.

Wildlife will share our urban environments if we invite them in and providing habitat for birds, mammals and creepy crawlies doesn't have to be difficult or expensive.

Here's a few ideas to get you started.



Provide a home for bats

Provide roosting space by installing a bat box on your home or workplace. A general box for crevice-dwelling species is most likely to be appropriate for the average home. You can make one yourself from wood, using freely-available specifications or you could buy a ready-made box. Whilst wooden boxes are great, there are also other materials that have been developed to be more long-lasting such as woodcrete or woodstone.

If you have a mature tree in your garden or community space, you could consider a tree-mounted box. More than one box on a variety of aspects is ideal as they provide a range of temperatures for the bats to choose from, however if you only have space for one then a south-facing aspect is recommended. If you are lucky enough to have access to a larger building or a woodland, you could consider a larger maternity or hibernation box.

You can also improve the foraging habitat for bats by planting trees and insect-attracting shrubs and perennials. A community orchard is a great way of increasing the 'stepping stones' in your neighbourhood for wildlife and may help to join up gardens with a larger area such as a public park.

Lighting can have a big impact on bats and whilst some of the more common urban species will still use lit areas, in general lighting will put bats off. If you have a security light in your garden, make sure it is angled downwards towards your door or driveway rather than across the entire garden. Consider motion sensors rather than lights that turn on at dusk and remain on all night. Also, avoid uplighting of trees - whilst this may make an attractive feature in your garden, it will also deter nocturnal wildlife.



Swift holes are a great alternative to boxes, Jack Roper



Bird boxes make the perfect homes, Ross Hoddinott 2020VISION



Give a hedgehog a welcoming home

2

Provide a home for birds



Swift boxes under the roofline are vital, Nick Brown

Many of our bird species have undergone serious decline in recent years, with around 60% of house sparrows lost since the mid-1970s and around 51% decline in breeding swifts in the UK between 1995 and 2015. Both species can benefit from nest boxes on your home. Both species nest colonially and therefore are more likely to use nesting features that support several families. Swift boxes and sparrow terraces can be bought that fit externally to buildings, with eaves level providing an optimal location.

There are even swift boxes available with a crevice at the back for bats so you can help provide homes for two species in one go! Unlike bats, birds can get too hot on south-facing aspects and therefore these are best avoided.

Boxes can be attached to buildings or trees for great tits and blue tits. If you have an ivy covered wall, you may consider adding an open-fronted robin box or wren nest. If you live in a more rural area or have access to a woodland, you could install more specialist species boxes for tree creeper, nuthatch or owls.

If you own an open-fronted building, such as a stable, wood-store or car-port, you could fix several swallow cups to the interior to encourage swallows. This species needs mud to build their nests and if this is not in good supply where you live, it could be the limiting factor preventing swallows setting up home.

Urban workplaces can also offer habitat for birds you may not initially consider. If you have access to a tall building you could install swift boxes, a kestrel box or raptor ledge for species such as peregrine falcons. These may be suitable for office blocks, industrial estates and churches.

Many homes will already have cavities suitable for swifts, sparrows and starlings, so the next time you need to re-point or replace fascias and soffits, perhaps consider whether all gaps have to go or whether you can leave a few for cavity-nesting species.

3

Provide a home for hedgehogs



In the 1950s it was estimated that we had around 30 million hedgehogs in the UK. Now we have less than 1 million. You can help by leaving wild areas of your garden with leaf piles and tall vegetation. You may want to add a hedgehog house to provide shelter. These are best located against a fence or wall, in a quiet sheltered spot. You can also leave piles of straw, leaves or bracken nearby. It's worth noting that hedgehogs aren't too keen on large, stiff leaves from trees such as maples and prefer smaller, softer leaves such as birch, hawthorn and hazel to create their nest.

Hedgehogs have to be able to get to your thoughtfully designed homes however and so connectivity between gardens is essential. There are many options to provide connectivity including cutting a hole in a fence panel, installing fencing or gates raised above ground level, using pre-formed gravel boards with hedgehog holes or incorporating hedgerows or railings as boundary features instead of fencing. The recommended gap size for hedgehog access is 130mm x 130 mm.

Dragonflies are a delight in gardens

Wildlife ponds provide essential water

4

Provide a home for bugs



To help the invertebrate community in your garden, providing a variety of habitats is the simplest approach. Choose plant species that attract pollinators and include a fruit tree if you have space. You can also leave a fruit tray out in the autumn for insects that like to feed on rotting fruit, such as comma and red admiral butterflies. Leaving seed heads and dead plant material in the winter will provide shelter for some insects in the colder months.

You can also add a ready-made bug box or make your own out of wood or an old plant pot filled with fir cones, canes, twigs, straw and other materials. These may be used by solitary bees as well as other creepy crawlies. Solitary bees will also nest in brickwork and garden walls where the mortar is crumbling, as well as in underground burrows created in areas of bare earth. Providing homes for invertebrates often requires little effort and you can help by being less tidy in the garden and leaving some cracks and crevices in walls and structures.



Home made bug boxes are great additions

5

Pond creation



Creating a pond in your garden is another great way of diversifying the habitats present. It can provide habitat for amphibians and invertebrates, as well as a place to drink for hedgehogs, foxes and birds. A wildlife pond should have a range of depths with shelved sides where possible to provide different habitat niches. Add

native aquatic and marginal plants and avoid non-native species that can be very invasive. Remember to add a ramp or stone pile at the edge of your pond to allow any unlucky hedgehogs to escape. In smaller gardens you can even create a pond in an old barrel, bucket or large planter.

You could also create a hibernacula or sheltering place for amphibians over winter. Simply dig a hole, then pile rubble or logs into it and cover over with soil or turf. Leave a few bits of stone or logs sticking out at the edges so that amphibians can crawl into the gaps. This should just look like a small mound next to the pond.



Half barrel pond

Did you know?

At Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, we have dedicated planning officers that respond to around 1,000 planning applications a year. We try to make sure that biodiversity features are incorporated in all new builds and conversions. We recommend a Biodiversity Enhancement condition as standard in most cases, which aims to secure bat and bird boxes in new developments, along with connectivity measures for hedgehogs and other wildlife. Other enhancements including waterbodies and wild flower grassland may also be recommended on a site-specific basis.

Turn over to see how we are improving industrial sites for wildlife

Making space for nature...

WILDLIFE GARDENING	SIMPLE ACTIONS TO TAKE	SHARE YOUR SUCCESS
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/wildlife-gardening	www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/actions	  



Industrial Revolution

We've shown you how you can improve your soil and also how you can improve your homes for wildlife – but how do we make the leap into larger, more industrial spaces? Well, in 2017 we decided to start tackling that issue and launched Derbyshire Ecological Services, an ecological consultancy which would provide our knowledge and services on a more formal basis to help companies and businesses improve conditions for wildlife across our county.

Dave Savage, Chesterfield Area Programme Manager gives us an insight into this important work:



In March this year we began working with a company called BASF in Somercotes. They were keen from the outset to do more for wildlife. We visited the site in November 2017 to find a site managed in a typical way. The grass was cut short, there were large tarmacked car park areas and poorly managed trees; it was a site managed for convenience.

BASF are a worldwide chemical producer, remembered by those of us of a certain age as video and cassette tape producers. The company now produces a wide range of products for the automotive, construction and pharmaceuticals industries to name a few. BASF have nine factories throughout the UK, and Somercotes is now a leader in improving their site for wildlife.

Our staff worked with their environment improvement group to come up with a plan. The team decided that they didn't want to make lots of changes and improvements only for them to be poorly managed in the future. So, the company decided to give us a contract to install the new features, but then to manage the whole site for the next five years. The early impact of this new management regime has been astounding, and the site has been the envy of the wider group, gaining attention throughout Europe.





Raised beds used to add greenery to concrete areas

Raised beds installed to green up parking

Before work began...

The site is dominated by production and storage units, with some grassed areas which were managed by cutting short. The new management arrangement was to allow most of this to grow so we could understand what was already on the site, but to keep the areas looking tidy by trimming the edges. Some of the grassed areas had additional seeding done on them but most of the site was simply left to grow.

Raised beds – these were built at the front of the building over the top of some disused parking spaces and planted with cornfield annuals – corn marigold, poppy, corn cockle and cornflower to give a good summer show of flowers.

Pond – a small pond was dug by volunteers and lined with bentonite clay. In May the pond was planted with a variety of submerged and emergent plants.

Nest boxes – 10 nest boxes were installed for a range of birds. It took just two days for great tits to occupy one of the boxes next to the security office! Four swift boxes and two bat boxes were also installed to take advantage of the tall buildings.

Trees and hedgerow – a 30 metre hedgerow has been planted to screen some of the factory units, and four new trees planted. Hardy species were chosen as the soil is quite poor and very wet; silver birch, alder and rowan.

Current wildlife

Most recently a number of important species have been recorded at the site these include 10 southern marsh orchids, a bee orchid and the nationally important small heath butterfly. Our aim is to attract the locally important dingy skipper butterfly, which has been recorded less than a mile away, and by leaving the grassed areas to grow the food plant of the caterpillar, bird's-foot trefoil which has grown in abundance. The CEO of the company has offered a prize for the member of staff that is the first to spot one of these rare, difficult to see butterflies!

Engaging the staff

We took part in BASF's annual Health and Safety week where staff are encouraged to participate in a range of activities to help them unwind and relax. Our staff took down some shave horses and draw knives to do a bit of green woodworking. 30 of the staff made a spatula from freshly cut silver birch!



Learning how to woodwork



Pond lined with bentonite

Steve Birkinshaw preparing beds for planting

Swift boxes added to building



We'd like to see dingy skipper butterflies on the site, Amy Lewis



Bee orchids have now been found here, Dave Savage



Southern marsh orchids thrive on this site now, Dave Savage

So, what does the future hold?

The BASF site is small relative to the sprawling industrial estate on which it sits. Our aim is that every company on the estate will do something for wildlife. This does not have to be to the extent of the endeavours embarked upon by BASF, but if all of the 38 companies did a small thing to protect or encourage wildlife around 800 acres of land could be improved!

Like what we do? Get more involved

If you are inspired by our work, and want to improve your grounds for wildlife or volunteer with us then get in touch:

ECO SERVICES EMAIL	ECO SERVICES PHONE	VOLUNTEER WITH US
ecoservices@derbyshirewt.co.uk	01773 881188	www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support/volunteering



Your legacy

Protect the wildlife you love,
for the people you love



Helena Dolby for Sheffield
& Rotherham Wildlife Trust

For years now we've been working to protect Derbyshire's landscapes, ensuring they are rich in wildlife and valued by everyone. We want people to be inspired by what they see around them and our supporters play a very important role in helping us to continue our work.

Legacies have helped us to extend our nature reserves at Gang Mine, Hartington Meadows and Erewash Meadows, as well enabling us to preserve species rich areas. It's not all about land purchases though. Legacies have allowed us to introduce thousands of children to the joys of nature and remind thousands of adults of the delight it brings.

Our wildlife and wild places are more under threat today than they ever were. A growing population, more development in terms of housing and infrastructure and the need to provide more and more resources means that our beautiful countryside is suffering.

It is now widely acknowledged that being outside, walking and playing in the fresh air is essential to our wellbeing and mental health. Mental health is one of the fastest growing issues for us as a nation and it even affects children. We are all probably aware that today's children experience a very different childhood from our own. In fact a recent report stated that the average prisoner spends more time outside than the average child - something we need to change!

When you leave something in your Will to the Trust you ensure the preservation of vibrant Living Landscapes for generations to come, you inspire children and adults alike to care for our beautiful world, increasing their wellbeing and ensuring that they too, care about nature. And what a legacy that will be.

Leave a gift in your Will
Give us a call 01773 881188

See page 23 for our list of
solicitors offering discounts
to our supporters.



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust



Bringing back the wild

2017/2018 Our Impact

Thank you
your dedication means
we can make amazing
things happen!





Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



Our **wellbeing programme**
means people are rebuilding their lives
all thanks to a greater connection
with nature



We believe that everyone
should have the opportunity to experience
the joys of wildlife – so, we started
Nature Babies
- from day one our little ones can
grow up with a natural love of, well, nature!

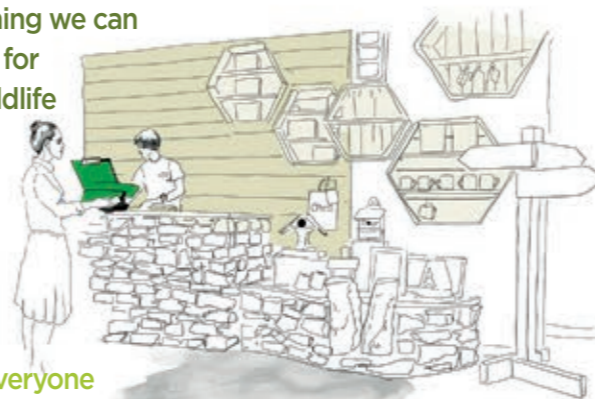


We're **inspiring** more and more
people to love Derbyshire as much as
we do through our gorgeous
new visitor centres

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



We've opened
two charity shops
– a great way of funding our
important work, meaning we can
do even more for
Derbyshire's wildlife



We're **bringing back the wild**
by restoring nearly 100ha of habitat and
providing valuable advice to farmers and
landowners, because, we believe
every hectare is a home
for wildlife



We're **empowering**
more and more people to act
for nature by creating a
training programme
– meaning valuable conservation skills
will be passed from generation to
generation



Together we're
bringing nature back
to our cities with our first ever urban nature reserve
in the heart of Derby – a big step in
making wild spaces
more connected and more accessible



After years of vaccinating **badgers**, we are now the
Government's national training hub
and we'll continue to **stand up to the cull** with science



And together we do so much more, visit
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk
to see the full extent of our work across Derbyshire



Financial review

Income

The Trust continued to secure funding from a wide range of sources, which gives us stability should any particular source of funding reduce or cease. In 2017-18 the Trust secured £2,248,000 of income, of which £467,000 came from membership. This type of income is unrestricted.*

Expenditure

A large part of our expenditure, £830,000 (41%) was invested in the delivery of conservation for the benefit of wildlife. We also invested £737,000 (37% of our expenditure) in engagement and education. We work hard to ensure we keep our administration and running costs to a minimum.

Summary

During financial year 2017-18 the Trust created a surplus of £222,000. Actual expenditure for 2017-18 excluding gains or losses on investments and actuarial valuations totalled £2,017,000. Fundraising initiatives resulted in income for projects beginning in 2017-18 and extending over several years which helps maintain the level of general reserves.

*Unrestricted Funds

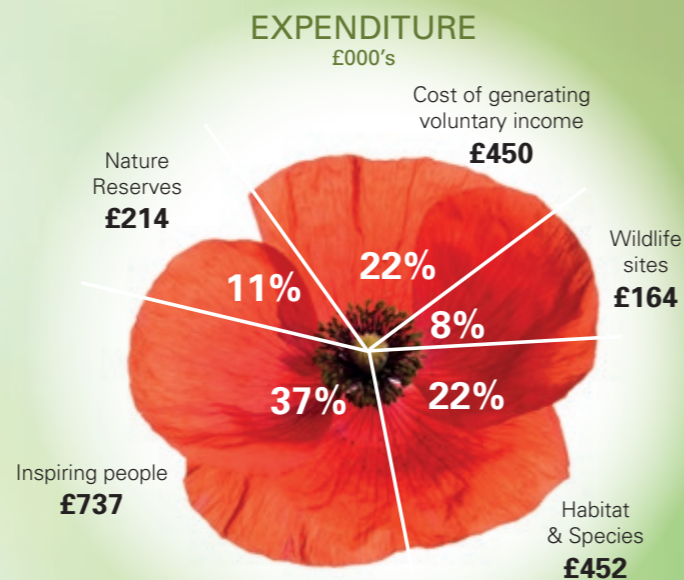
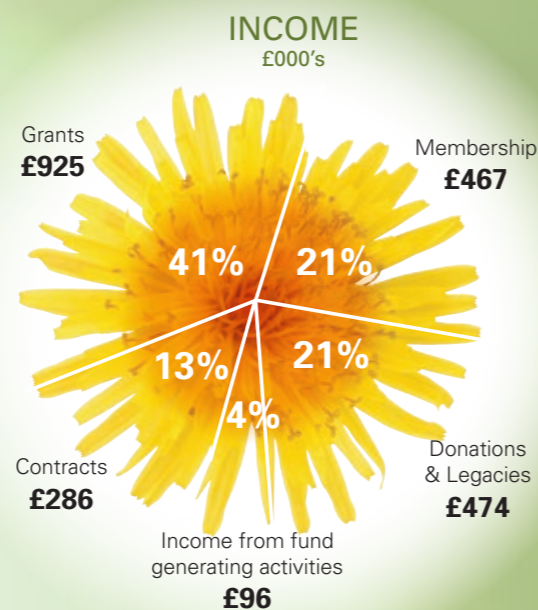
These funds can be used wherever we think the need is greatest.

Restricted Funds

Funds which have been given to the Trust for a particular purpose.

Board of Trustees 2017-18

Chair Dr S J Mayer	Mr A D M Hams Mr T Hudson FCA (retired 4/12/2017)
Treasurer - appointed 21/04/2017 Mr P J Bradbury FCMA	Mr N P Huish Mrs J R Lane - appointed 4/12/2017, (retired 30/04/2018)
Mr D F Charlton (retired 4/12/2017)	Mrs S L Lewis (retired 11/06/2018)
Mr M J Cox FCA (retired 21/04/2017)	Professor P T Lynch
Mr D S Cutts - appointed 4/12/2017	Mr C F Pickering
Dr H A Edwards	Mr P R Shore (retired 4/12/2017)
Mrs S L Fowler (retired 4/12/2017)	Mrs J E Sterland - appointed 4/12/2017
Mr C J Gale (retired 4/12/2017)	Miss C Turton-Chambers - appointed 11/06/2018
Dr M Greenwood (retired 4/12/2017)	



**This Annual Review covers the period from
1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018**

Get in touch

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Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4LR
T: 01773 881188
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

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A Will for wildlife

This year our Will for Wildlife month runs through November and we are pleased to announce that the following solicitors are helping the Trust by taking part and offering our supporters discounted Will writing. So why not make or update your Will and include a gift to the Trust?

Derbyshire Legal Services Ltd Andrew Macbeth Cash & Co

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www.andrewmacbethcash.co.uk

10% discount for all of November 2018
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helen@lovedays-solicitors.co.uk

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www.awandco.co.uk

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November 2018
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VAT for a single Will and £175 plus VAT for a joint
Will for the month of November 2018
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Empire Buildings,
23 West Street,
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Derbyshire,
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Tel: 01283 214231

10% discount off all Wills all year round
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www.timms-law.com

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Contact Claire O'Donnell on 01332 340349 or
claireodonnell@wykesderby.co.uk
Or
14-15 Queen Street
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 5GT
Contact James Newton on 0115 932 8776 or
jamesnewton@wykesilkeston.co.uk
£100 for a single Will and £150 for a mirror Will
(plus VAT) for a year.
www.wykessolicitors.co.uk



Working in schools



Making natural wrist bands



Pond dipping

Nature Deficit Disorder

In 2014 a group of organisations from across Derbyshire and Staffordshire came together to try to tackle a problem that has been on the increase for the last 40 years: Nature Deficit Disorder.

This term was first used in The Natural Childhood report (2012) but the problem is not that new. Since the 1970's children in the UK have been leading increasingly sedentary, indoor lives, divorced from nature and their natural surroundings. Lack of access to green spaces, our increasingly risk averse society and new indoor technologies have all borne the brunt of the blame. The problem now means fewer than 1 in 10 children regularly play outdoors in wild spaces (Natural England 2010) and 11-15 year olds spend half their waking hours in front of a screen (Louv 2010). Obviously this has massive implications for their health and wellbeing, both physical and mental but also, as they become less connected to the natural world, their knowledge and understanding of it are declining. In 2007 words like conker and bluebell were removed from the Oxford Junior Dictionary to be replaced by words such as MP3 player and blog. And if our children don't understand our natural world, will they grow up caring about it and its welfare?

It has been suggested that we now have 2nd and 3rd generation parents who themselves have not spent much time outdoors in nature. In which case, how would they know where to take their children to play and how would they know what to do with them if they did?

Play Wild was the project that grew from these concerns. In 2017 we partnered up with seven other organisations to try to find a solution. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project lasted eight months and the findings (as evaluated by the University of Derby and presented at the Nature Connections conference in 2018) were incredibly positive.

What did we do?

The partners worked with Derbyshire school children to create a Play Wild brand, website and leaflet. These help signpost families towards play friendly sites and give them ideas of what to do whilst they are there.

To help identify the best sites we created a traffic light system to guide activities by denoting the level of play suitable for each site to ensure wildlife and people can thrive side by side:



Go wild all year round!



Here wildlife may be more sensitive at different times of the year. Take care to find out where and when to play wild.



Here wildlife is sensitive all year round. Remain on paths and take extra care.

Increasing families' confidence

We worked with over 1,000 people from nursery and community groups with children under the age of five. Each group was given two wild play sessions: the first was at a local, familiar greenspace or park and the second was at a nature reserve or wildlife site that was somewhere a bit more 'wild' but still within easy reach of their home. During the sessions we ran lots of simple, wild play activities that they would be able to easily and cheaply repeat in the future by themselves to try to give them the confidence to get out and play.

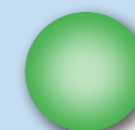
The parents who took part in our sessions filled in questionnaires which were analysed by the University of Derby to discover if we had changed their attitudes and left them feeling more confident to venture outside themselves.

What did we find?

The feedback showed an increase in confidence in their likelihood to play outdoors and in knowing where to go. The participants also reported feeling an increase in their connection to nature after our sessions and most significantly it showed an increase in their confidence in knowing what to do whilst outside themselves.

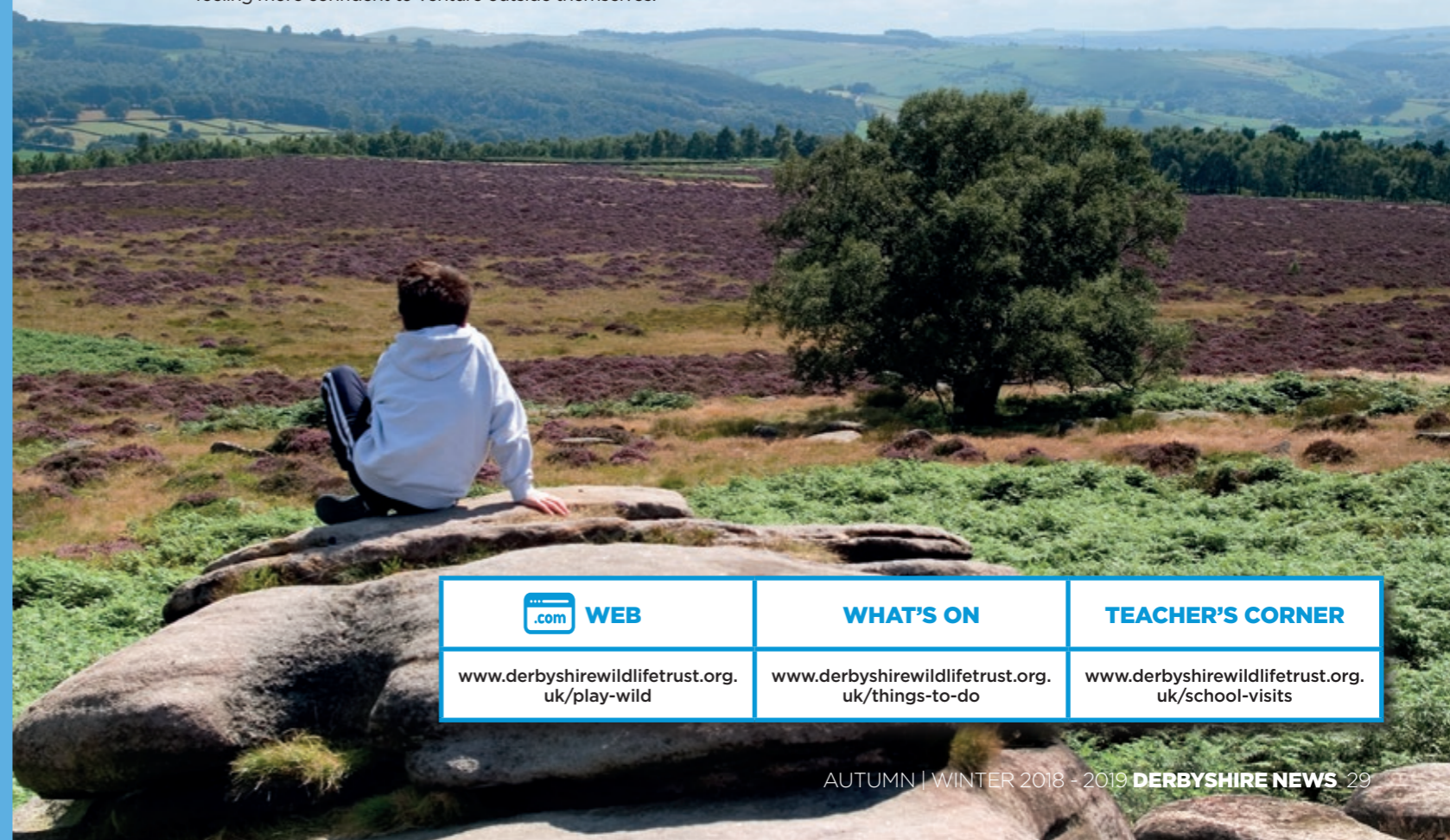
What can you do?

In short, get outdoors with your children, take time with them to notice nature. No matter the weather there is always somewhere nearby to explore and have fun. Why not check out Play Wild on our website for ideas on where to go or for led activities check out our 'what's on' pages.



Go wild

- See who can spot the most colours or sounds
- Look for bugs along the paths
- Imagine, what your journey would look like for a bug...or a bird!
- Tell stories using what you see around you
- Make a nature notebook and record what you see on your visit



WEB

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/play-wild

WHAT'S ON

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do

TEACHER'S CORNER

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/school-visits

BECAUSE OF YOU

Terrific Trainees

Derwent Explorers with us at Chaddesden, Marc Whitlock

In 2016 we started our very own training programme so people could learn important skills whilst getting a behind the scenes look at what it's really like to work in conservation before making the big leap!

So, what does a trainee get up to? We wanted to find out - Peter Eley tells us more...

My working life has been in industry, but I always had a yearning to be closer to nature and enjoyed being outdoors. Hence, my hobbies of walking, camping and wildlife watching fitted well with my volunteering as a Scout Leader.

Over time I had become disenchanted with the daily grind of the factory office and seeing an advert for a Volunteer Trainee with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust I decided to apply.

At the interview I found out that I was committing to volunteer three days a week for a year and I would receive training on the main functions within the Trust, whilst assisting staff members in their roles.

The Volunteer Trainees apply for different roles, ranging from Living Landscapes Trainees, which tend to be focussed on reserve management to People Engagement Trainees, where the role is to help people build a better connection with nature. I chose the latter.

I started the role in July 2017 and finished in summer 2018, and it's been amazing!

At the beginning, I was soon learning the different skills and techniques used to engage children, and sometimes adults, in the fantastic nature all around us in Derbyshire.

Every day was different. One day working in a nursery in Derby, teaching toddlers how to plant a meadow, the next making crafts with young adults at Shining Cliff Woods around a campfire.

Alongside practical work we were also receiving training at head office for Health & Safety, First Aid, protected species law and all the other important responsibilities of the Trust.

Gradually as I became more capable, I was given more responsibility. I started to run the Nature Babies sessions at the Whistlestop Centre in Matlock Bath. This involves nature and sensory play for babies from 0 - 2.5 years old and has been very successful.

I also took on Nature Tots, which had a different theme every month - from hedgehogs, to busy bumblebees. Developing crafts and games for the toddlers has been great fun. The children's enthusiasm is amazing and it really gives me a buzz when the sessions are happening.



Getting crafty, Marc Whitlock

I was also asked to help with a project in inner city Derby to engage local people on a scheme to raise a brook to the surface rather than running underneath a city park. The project has been a big challenge, working with the local schools to make a model of the park and then using the model to engage the children's parents and local people, gathering their ideas for what they wanted to see happen. I've learnt so much through the process.

Then, during spring, I was trained in wildlife identification and helped the Trust carry out species surveys; taking part in water vole and otter surveys, counting lots of slow worms for a reptile survey, as well as recording great crested newts. I could go on and on and fill this magazine with my experiences, it has been the most amazing year ever!

As for the future, well, I've been taken on by the Trust to continue my people engagement work. The project in inner-city Derby has opened my eyes to the separation of urban people from nature. Encouraging more wild play in the city is what I would like to be more involved with.

Overall, what I would say to anybody that is keen to be more involved in nature and the outdoors, is to become a trainee and see where it takes you.



Checking out slow worms, Jack Roper



Helen Walsh



Peter on a great crested newt survey at The Avenue Washlands



Toasting marshmallows, Marc Whitlock

Fancy it?

Applications are open for the next round of trainees visit

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/trainee-scheme to apply - we can't wait to meet you!

WEB

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/trainee-scheme

@EMAIL

enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

CALL

01773 881188



Out and about *Wild Winter*

Get your hats and scarves ready – it may be winter but that doesn't mean staying indoors!

This edition we're sharing our top five reserves for winter wildlife – so go on, get out and explore.



Cormorant,
Harry Hogg



Gawell, Richard Steel
2020VISION



Wigeon, Danny Green
2020VISION

Carr Vale

In the north east of the county there is no better place to go to see wildfowl than this series of pools on the edge of Bolsover.

In winter wildfowl feed on the flooded margins of the grassland, on the seeds and invertebrates disturbed by rising water levels. Amongst them are wigeon, but unlike the other species of dabbling duck they are unusual as they leave the water to feed by grazing on very short grass. They have a short neck and legs. The male wigeon is distinguished by his chestnut coloured head. Gadwell are also present here in large numbers. Close up, the black and light brown mottled markings on the male bird are rather beautiful.

Red legged partridge and brown hare are also a real treat to see here.

Drakelow

This is a great reserve for birds. At this time of year over 100 cormorants can be seen here, spending their winter fishing on the lakes before returning to their breeding grounds on the coast. They like to stand with their wings held out to dry after a spot of fishing. Drakelow is also very good for winter wildfowl. One of the most common ducks to look out for here is the shoveler. The female shoveler looks very similar to a female mallard duck but she has a large shovel-like beak. The male has a dark green head and neck not dissimilar to the male mallard. At any one time you can see dozens of birds on the water grouped in tight circles feeding on insects and small plants which they sift from the water.



Brown hare, Jamie Hall

The Avenue Washlands

The volunteers at The Avenue Washlands keep the bird feeders well stocked which means that even in the depths of winter you are likely to see a good number of hungry feathered visitors. There are usually chaffinch about. They don't really sing in the winter but announce their presence with a loud 'pink pink'. They are sometimes joined by the even more colourful bullfinch. Bullfinch are much more secretive though so, if disturbed, will quickly return to the surrounding undergrowth where they spend the majority of their time. The other finch you may see at The Avenue Washlands is the greenfinch. Like the chaffinch they feed on a wide variety of seeds. The female is mainly streaky brown with yellow patches on her wings whilst the male has an olive green breast.

In the winter all five species of thrush visit. The blackbird and song thrush that breed here are joined by flocks of fieldfare and redwing. The blackbird numbers increase as the residents are joined by Scandinavian visitors and sometimes a mistle thrush arrives.



Swallow, Mark Hamblin
2020VISION

Priestcliffe Lees

Where the woodland merges into the grassland on the slopes of Priestcliffe Lees there is a belt of hazel.

We have started managing this as a coppice. This means we cut it back every ten or so years. A dark woodland floor suddenly becomes bathed in sunlight, resulting in a flush of spring growth and we often find some very interesting plants.

You might see a brown hare running through the fields. Unlike rabbits they are solitary creatures and do not use burrows but shelter on the woodland edge. In the spring they make a form in the grass where they give birth to well-developed young leverets which they only return to feed once a day. After a fall of snow Priestcliffe Lees is a great place to look for mammal tracks. Some tracks are much easier to identify than others for instance the badger has particularly long back feet which distinguishes its tracks from those left by other large animals.

The presence of small mammals such as bank vole are also far more evident at this time of year. Bank voles store berries and nuts in preparation for winter and you might find one of their larders if you look very carefully.



Bank vole,
Ian Wilson

Willington Gravel Pits

The reed beds at Willington Gravel Pits turn a beautiful blonde colour at this time of year and rustle in the wind. Last year in November a murmuration of starlings arrived and each evening onlookers were treated to one of nature's most spectacular displays as thousands of birds wheeled around the sky forming intricate patterns before descending on mass into the reeds to spend the night. These are not the first birds of the year to use the reserve as a gathering place. Earlier in the year the swallows come to roost before starting on their long migration south for the winter.



Chaffinch, Neil Aldridge



Bullfinch, Chris Lawrence

So, with so much to go and discover, what are you waiting for?

Find all the location, parking and facility details for each reserve on our website, or call us at the office, and make sure you tell us what you have seen - we will use your sightings to help build valuable county records. Thank you.

Reserves: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserve

Sightings: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting

Worms, wonderful worms

How fascinating are worms and soil? Here are two activity sheets so you can start your very own wormery and get a closer look at these awesome creatures. Also, make your own compost so your garden's soil is bursting with nutrients and wildlife!

How to make simple compost

Wild About Gardens

You will need

- A compost bin, with a lid*
- A well-drained, easy to access area
- Green compostable ingredients
- Brown materials, like straw and crunched-up paper
- A gardening fork

Compost worms are brilliant recyclers so put them to use on your green waste. The finished compost will enrich your garden soil, benefiting even more earthworms! This rich soil also boosts flowers, veggies and other plants.

1 Carefully make holes in the base of your bin if it doesn't have any. Then place it on or close to bare soil to let worms wiggle in.

2 Start putting stuff in... mix brown materials, like straw and paper, with nitrogen-rich ones like veggies and tea bags.

3 Stick a fork in and turn over the contents of the bin (ideally once a month) to let more air in. The more you turn it, the quicker you make compost.

4 It can take from six months to two years, but when it's ready you'll find rich, dark, fabulous compost. Use it!

Don't worry if there are lumps, bumps and bits of eggshells.

Check out the worms that have moved in!

tea bags	raw fruit and veg peelings	grass cuttings	straw	crunched newspaper	soft prunings & dead plants	coffee grounds
woody stems	cooked food scraps	cat or dog poo	meat or bones	weed seedheads	perennial weed roots	diseased plants

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk *An old recycling tub or a smaller ready-made compost bin (recycled plastic ones are available) could save space.



Make your own wormery

wildlife watch

You will need:

- 2-3 earthworms
- 1 litre clear plastic drinks bottle
- Garden soil
- Compost
- Light-coloured sand
- Scissors
- Cling film and an elastic band
- Water
- Leaves
- Paper or card and tape

1 With the help of an adult, cut the top off the drinks bottle and remove any labels

2 Build up layers of different kinds of soil and sand in the bottle

3 Sprinkle fallen leaves over the top and water until damp

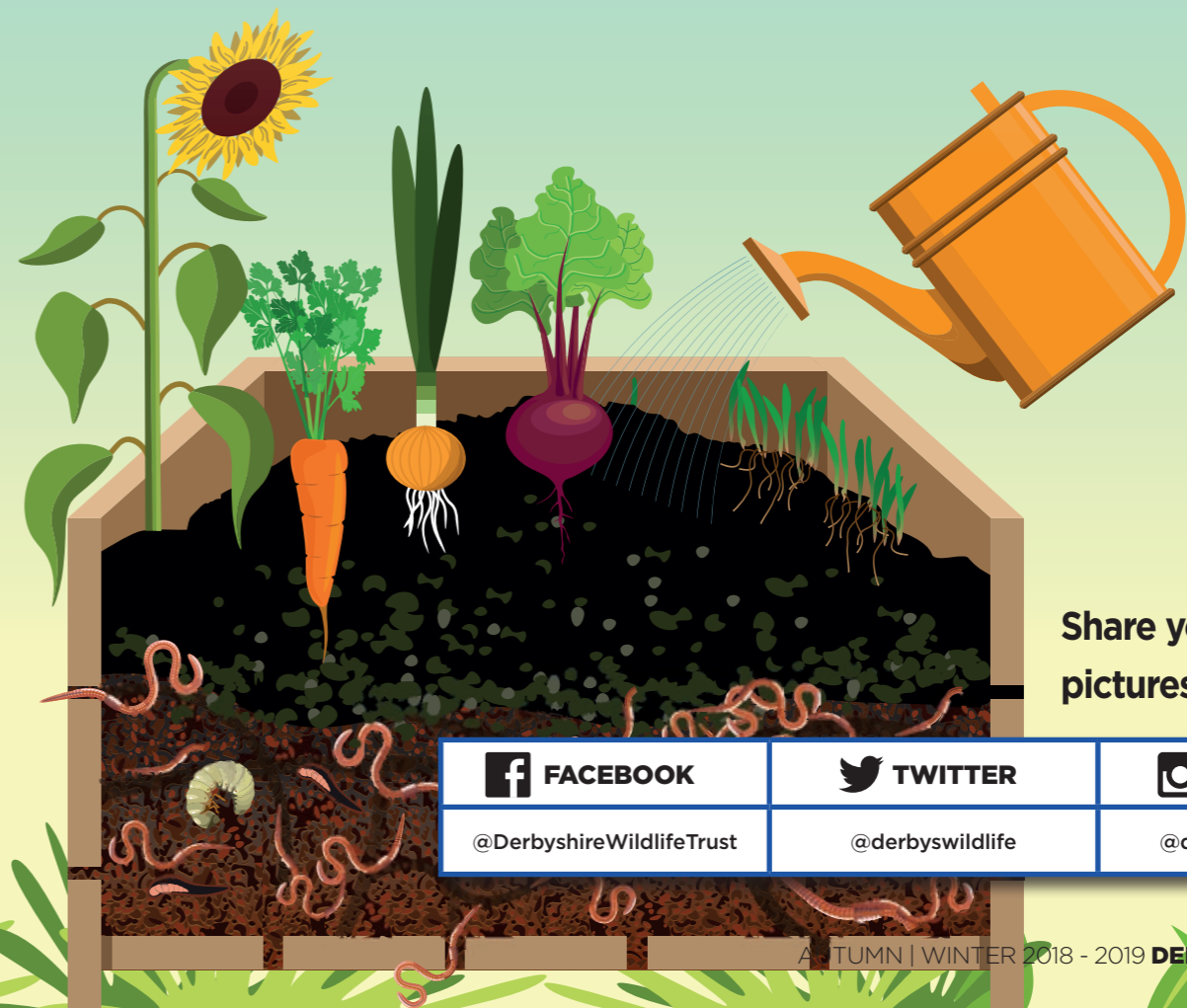
4 Add your worms!

5 Secure cling film over the top to stop your worms escaping. Pierce with tiny holes.

6 Wrap the bottle in paper to keep it dark for your worms. You can remove this when you want to have a look at how they've mixed the layers.

7 Keep in a cool place and top up with water when needed. Release your worms back into the wild after you've finished your experiment.

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk



Share your pictures with us:

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INSTAGRAM

@derbyshirewildlife

Working together for wildlife

You've got to be in it to win it!

50/50 Club Winners

Congratulations to recent winners:

Janet McNicol, Mrs P J Doncaster, Mrs M S Norton, Mrs M J Parker, Jim Russell, Marion Rider, Sue Meinertzhagen, Maurice Lawson, Betty Fradley, Mr D Green, Dennis & Janet Smith

Join our 50/50 Club!

Fill in this form and send with a cheque (made payable to Wild Dreams) for £12 per year per subscription to the Trust office.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____ Email address _____

Number of subscriptions required at £12 each _____

Total amount enclosed _____

Feeling lucky?

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

To join at just £12 per year for one membership (why not have more than one?) please fill out the form below and send a cheque (made payable to Wild Dreams) to the Trust office or complete our online form at: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/raffles-and-clubs



Dipper, Amy Lewis

Show Derbyshire you mean business

If you run your own business or you work for an organisation that you think may like to support Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, why not get in touch with us so we can tell you all about the benefits of business membership?

Not only is business membership an excellent opportunity to fulfil your corporate and social responsibility obligations, you can now take advantage of our business network - business members get to meet up to 70 other businesses at our networking events. These events cover environmental and people based topics that are relevant to your business and provide excellent professional development opportunities.

For more information about attending business networking events, please contact Carol Phillips on 01773 881188 or email cphillips@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Recent funding successes include:

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped make our improvements at The Whistlestop Discovery Centre possible. As you will see below, funding has come from so many different sources and has come together to ensure The Whistlestop can become a real visitor hub that celebrates the local history as well as enabling people to rest and relax whilst learning all about Derbyshire's special wildlife. If you take time to stop and visit the café you can rest assured that all our profits are used to help your local wildlife.

- **£83,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for Waking up the Whistlestop to reroof and add interactive interpretation.**
- **Over £10,000 from a Crowdfunding appeal for Waking up the Whistlestop to put towards match funding requirements for the Heritage Lottery bid.**
- **£22,969 from Designated Community Rail Development Fund (DCRDF) for heating improvements at the Whistlestop Discovery Centre to make it a lovely, cosy space in the winter months and £16,520 from CrossCounty for access improvements**
- **Tesco Bags of Help have given us £8,000 to split between Woodside Farm and Oakerthorpe Nature Reserve to restore parts of the reserves and equip volunteers.**
- **Working for Nature – our brand new skills project has been made possible thanks to £750,000 of Heritage Lottery Funding. We're working in partnership with Sheffield Wildlife Trust and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to deliver the four year programme.**
- **£500 from the Trent and Lower Derwent Local Group to release Landfill Communities Fund monies.**
- **£314 from the Appletree Hundred Local Group to release Landfill Communities Fund monies – their final donation prior to the group closing. Many thanks to all group members for their fantastic support of the Trust over the years.**

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has donated since March 2018.

Please visit our website for the full list.

We'd also like to thank friends and family of Derek Alsop for their kind donations in his memory.

To donate, please visit: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/give

What's your legacy?

Many of our wildlife sites have benefited from the generosity of local people who remembered Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in their Will.

To find out how to leave a legacy and help Derbyshire's wildlife please contact Jane Proctor on 01773 881188.

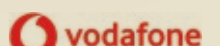
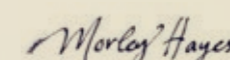
We continue to work in partnership with the following businesses and we greatly appreciate their support:

Absolute Networks Ltd
Accrofab Ltd
Aggregate Industries Ltd
Andrew Towler Associates
Apex Drilling
Ashbourne Heights Holiday Park
Breedon Group – Hope Cement
Bowmer Bond Narrow Fabrics Ltd
Buxton Brewery Co Ltd
Buxton & High Peak Security Services Ltd
C W Sellors
Carriages Restaurant
Castle Cliff Accommodation
Catandra Industrial Consulting Ltd
Cemex Operations Ltd
Commercial Estates Group Ltd

Eagle Securities
East Midlands Airport (MAG)
East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire)
Elite Group
EP Industries Ltd
EPC- UK Plc
Experian
Flint Bishop LLP
GF Tomlinson Group Ltd
Granger's International Ltd
Green Metals UK Ltd
Henry Boot Plc
Hoe Grange Holidays
Holiday Cottages.co.uk
Horsley Lodge Ltd

J C Balls & Sons
Jurys Inn
Kevin Wood Artist
Longcliffe Quarries Ltd
Lubrizol Limited
M A Broughton Electrical Contractors Ltd
Morley Hayes
Nestle Waters
Ontologies Ltd
Peak Cottages
Peak Walking Adventures
Platinum Electrical Ltd
Rock Fall UK
St Anselm's
Studio 10 Kitchen Design
Tarmac

Tec-Ties Ltd
The Loaf
The Message
Thornton's PLC
Timms Solicitors
Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd
Travel Chapter Ltd
University of Derby
Villager Jim
Vine House Farm
Visit Peak District and Derbyshire
Vodafone
Ward Recycling
Weleda UK
Wienerberger Limited
Zycomm Ltd



A dale of two halves

ROLY SMITH explores the split personality of Lathkill Dale, part of the Derbyshire Dales National Nature Reserve

Start/Finish: Car park in Chapel Street, Monyash.

Distance: 4.5 miles

Approximate time: Allow 2/3 hours

Maps: Outdoor Leisure Sheet 24 (White Peak)

Difficulty: Many squeezer stiles at the start, then fairly easy dale walking, with a rocky scramble towards the end.

Lathkill is a dale with a Jekyll and Hyde character. On the one hand, it is part of the Derbyshire Dales National Nature Reserve, famous for its flora and clear-running river, and on the other, although hard to believe today, it was the scene of intense industrial activity during the last century. This easy half-day stroll from Monyash takes you into the heart of the Lathkill and illustrates the two sides of the dale's character.



Northern wheatear,
Chris Gomersall
2020VISION

- 1** From the car park walk down to the village green and turn left past the Bull's Head, crossing the road to enter St. Leonard's churchyard. A path leads south through the churchyard through a series of squeezer stiles and into a walled farm lane which you follow until it ends at Fern Dale, a small, dry tributary of Lathkill Dale, which is crossed by three stiles. At a gate, you join another farm track which leads directly to One Ash Grange.
- 2** Follow the track to the left of the last barn to a stile at the end of the Dutch barn. The path now descends sharply into the rocky defile of Cales Dale, which is followed (left) beneath impending limestone crags to reach Lathkill Dale by a wooden footbridge. The River Lathkill exhibits that strange feature of streams which run for all or part of their course across limestone. In summer, when the water level is low, it usually disappears completely to run underground. This situation has been exacerbated by the centuries of lead mining in the area, when large-scale drainage of the workings led to a significant lowering of the water table.

- 3** Further downstream from the junction with Cales Dale, the path alongside the Lathkill enters Palmerston Wood, where nuthatch and woodpeckers can be seen. In about half a mile, the ruins of the Mandale Lead Mine engine house can be visited on the left. But we turn left at the other side of the Cales Dale footbridge to walk up the path which leads to the upper part of the dale.

This part of Lathkill Dale is probably the richest for wildlife, and you may see dipper and grey wagtail hunting in the clear waters of the river. The more open dale sides are famous for their herb-rich flora, where over 50 different species of plants, including thyme and rockrose, have been identified per square metre. This in turn supports butterflies such as the orange-tip and northern brown argus. The bold limestone crag high up on the right is known as Parson's Tor, and ravens have been known to nest here.

- 4** Continue up the increasingly-impressive open and treeless dale. In a few more yards, the gaping maw of Lathkill Head Cave yawns to the left. Lathkill Head Cave is what is known as a "resurgence" cave, and is where the River Lathkill emerges from the hillside in spectacular fashion during the winter months when the water level is high.

Continue up the dale, and where the limestone walls start to crowd in, in early summer you may be lucky enough to see some fine stands of the rare Jacob's ladder flowering in the dale bottom.

The path is now confined to a rocky scramble over and around some large boulders.

The scree of broken stones coming down from the right is from the now-disused Ricklow Quarry, from which "figured marble" was won in Victorian times. This was a highly-fashionable polished grey limestone in which there were a large number of decorative crinoid (sea lily) fossils.

The dale now opens up and you cross a series of stiles where in summer you may be ticked-off by the resident pair of wheatears, which nest in the broken-down drystone walls.



Common rockrose,
Philip Precey

Rarely seen view of Lathkill,
Simon Corble via Flickr

- 5** Eventually you emerge onto the B5055 Bakewell road by a stile. Turn left and cross the road to enter Bagshaw Dale, a shallow dry valley which is an extension of Lathkill Dale. Crossing a series of stiles and gates, you emerge through drystone walls onto the Taddington road, where you turn left into Chapel Street to return to the village centre.



Lathkill waterfall,
Robert Dudek

Campaign begins for Nature's recovery

**We all need the future to be more wild as an urgent priority.
Please help us build momentum for a Nature Recovery Network**

As we stand on the brink of the biggest ever shake-up of environmental rules, The Wildlife Trusts are calling for politicians to introduce new laws to build a wilder, better Britain.

Central to this would be a requirement for Local Authorities to produce local Nature Recovery Maps, showing where the remaining wildlife is and how it can be reconnected and expanded. These maps, produced with wide local consultation, would join up to form a national Nature Recovery Network. For the first time our landscapes would be farmed and developed in an integrated way that benefits people and wildlife.

The campaign for a Network kicked off with a presentation at Westminster in May. 48 MPs heard The Wildlife Trusts explain the need to rebuild nature after decades of destructive practices.

"We know from research across the globe that a healthy, wildlife-rich natural world is essential for our

“Nature needs to recover – for everything it brings us”

wellbeing and prosperity," said Nigel Doar, Director of Strategy at The Wildlife Trusts. "Nature needs to recover – for the sake of wild plants and animals, and for everything it brings us: better health, climate control, flood management, enjoyment, employment and more."

The Westminster Government recently consulted on future English planning policies and public payments to farmers. As part of their campaign for a Nature Recovery Network, The Wildlife Trusts lobbied strongly for the planning system to protect Local Wildlife Sites, and for government payments to farmers that help them create and look after places for wildlife.



Read the report and join our campaign on wtru.st/natnet



Our vision for the future

1 Nature is normal

Children have trees to climb, fields to explore and ponds to investigate.

2 Green developments

All housing and other development creates a net gain for wildlife.

3 Wilder cities

Green roofs, green walls, pocket parks and trees are common.

4 Buzzing countryside

Farmland is crisscrossed by colourful habitat for wild pollinators.

5 Long-term fisheries

All fishing is sustainable and jobs are secure.

6 Recovering seas

Sightings of whales and other sea creatures are increasing.

7 Fertile soils

Nutrients are staying locked in soils rather than eroding and blowing away.

8 Restored uplands

Instead of just close-grazed grasslands, the trees and peat bogs are back, reducing flooding and locking up CO₂ from the air.



A wave of support

We are thrilled to share the news that 22,000 people completed our online action urging Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to designate 41 new Marine Conservation Zones in the seas around England.

Between 8 June and 20 July, the Government ran a public consultation on whether to create 41 new Marine Conservation Zones – a type of protected area at sea. Without these proposed Marine Conservation Zones some of our most precious wildlife – from

seahorses to living reefs – would have no protection.

We warmly welcomed this ambition as a step in the right direction and launched a campaign asking everyone who loves the sea to give their Wave of Support, calling for each of the 41 new Marine Conservation Zones to be designated.

We want to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you that took the time to respond. We know from past consultations that the level of public support really does make a difference – and 22,000 responses in just 6 weeks is highly impressive!

The consultation has now closed and all of the responses we received have been sent to the Government alongside our own detailed response.

The Government will now consider the consultation responses they received and make a decision on which of the 41 proposed Marine Conservation Zones they will formally create. The Government has to complete this process within 12 months, but we hope to hear an announcement from them in early 2019.

Sheffield's nature report

Did you know that Sheffield's city boundaries are drawn around the old county of Hallamshire? The ground-breaking *Sheffield State of Nature* report reveals that a third of the area is now designated for its wildlife value and habitat quality is improving. Sheffield's once heavily polluted rivers are recovering, with 26 out of 31 fish species doing well. Otters have also returned to the River Don. Despite this, over 100 Local Wildlife Sites still need better management.

■ Download the report at wildsheffield.com/stateofnature



Cornfield annuals on a derelict housing plot in the city

PAUL HOBSON

25,000 stand up for Local Wildlife Sites

An incredible 25,000 of you responded in just two weeks this spring when the Government proposed to take all reference to Local Wildlife Sites out of the National Planning Policy Framework.

This change would have removed all protection for England's 42,000 Local Wildlife Sites. These are quiet, often unnoticed places where wildlife thrives – meadows, woodlands, city oases. Although they tend to fall under the radar they are a critical part of our wildlife

resource. Designated Local Wildlife Sites cover 3% of Wales and Northern Ireland, 5% of England and 1.7% of the Isle of Man. They are recognised and protected in planning policy – the process is one of their only protections – but nevertheless some are still lost each year.

Because of your action, Housing Minister Dominic Raab has agreed to revisit the wording (in England). Thank you! But these special spaces are far from secure – we may need your help again soon to save our Local Wildlife Sites.



Dr Jo Smith of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust with Ruth George MP



...and Rebecca Pow of the Conservatives

NICKI DYAS



A Nature Recovery Network (p42) would give the water vole a chance

Water voles still declining, says new research

The water vole is still heading for extinction. That's the stark conclusion of research led by The Wildlife Trusts. Analysing data collected over ten years has revealed that the water vole's distribution has declined by 30% since 2006 in England and Wales.

“It has now vanished from 94% of its former haunts”

TERRY WHITTAKER

It has now vanished from 94% of places where it once was.

This would be even worse without The Wildlife Trusts and others carrying out river restoration and reintroductions across the UK. The causes are well known: habitat loss, water pollution, built development and predation by the North American mink. Ellie Brodie, Senior Policy Manager for The Wildlife Trusts, says: “We're working hard to bring them back, but much more is needed if we're going to stop this creature disappearing altogether. We need commitment to a Nature Recovery Network.”



Happy: Grace (and buttercups) at Teifi Marshes reserve

GINA GAVIGAN

Nature: good for you

Following **30 Days Wild** this June, researchers at the University of Derby have proved that seeing beauty in the natural world leads to improved wellbeing and happiness. The three-year study involved thousands of participants, and demonstrated the positive impact of wildlife on our health.



Stay wild

Nature is good for you – so make the most of your local green space this summer, says Liz Bonnin

This June, The Wildlife Trusts asked everyone to notice nature everywhere, every day. Hundreds of thousands of you took part in 30 Days Wild, carrying out literally millions of Random Acts of Wildness.

So why not stay wild? Nothing restores you like spending time in nature – the breeze in your face, the fragrance of grasses and flowers warmed by the summer sun, the soft buzz of insects and trills of birdsong.

We know nature makes us feel good. But now, there is mounting evidence that it can improve your energy levels and mood, lessen hypertension, respiratory tract and cardiovascular illnesses, and reduce anxiety and depression.

Over the past three years, The Wildlife Trusts have also proved that taking part in 30 Days Wild improves health, happiness, and the desire to protect nature. It starts with the beauty of nature, connecting us more deeply to the natural world. As our appreciation increases, so does our happiness. This, in turn, encourages people to do more to help wildlife and take action for nature. The impacts don't just last

a few days. They might even last a whole year.

So this winter, treat your body and mind as often as you can. Go for a long walk, watch the morning mist rise, take off your gloves and feel the frost, and breathe. There are pockets of green everywhere, even in our busiest cities. I live in London and love to cycle around Richmond Park in search of its red deer, or enjoy the majestic oaks.

Many of the UK's wilder places have a special place in my heart too: the breathtaking mountains and lakes in Scotland's Cairngorms

“You can benefit from our natural world”

National Park; the magical Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel with its colourful puffins and playful seals; the impossibly beautiful coast of Pembrokeshire (and the chance to clamber over rocks and jump into crystal clear waters).

One of my favourite experiences is to listen to the echolocation calls of bats at dusk. It's already quite lovely to watch them darting back and forth in the stillness of the evening as they pick off their prey, but with a bat detector, an entirely different and thrilling scene reveals itself. The bats vocalise with incessant high frequency squeaks and clicks that allow them to manoeuvre at lightning speed without crashing into each other, locating the insects with sublime precision.

It's never been more important to protect our wild places, so that the health of our planet's ecosystems, and ultimately our health, is safeguarded. Each individual can make a real difference; it's only



Liz Bonnin is a biochemist, wild animal biologist and science and wildlife presenter



Families all over the UK are going to stay wild this June, no matter where they live. Will you?



Liz on Rathlin island, famous for its puffins, off the Northern Irish coast

through individual actions that we can bring about the change our natural world needs to thrive.

No matter where you live, you can benefit from our natural world and play a big part in protecting it. The people around you can too, so share your wild experiences with friends and families. Stay wild, stay connected to nature, and have a wonderful winter!

Five ways to stay wild

1 Take part in a wildlife survey, monitoring some of our most beautiful wildlife, such as water voles, butterflies or barn owls



2 Cut down on plastic. Say no to plastic straws, bags, wrapping and bottles. Instead, invest in reusable alternatives

3 Go on a wild adventure with friends and family. Use the dark evenings to watch bats or look for moths

4 Enjoy a day at the beach looking out for rockpool creatures, dolphins offshore or majestic seabirds

5 Look for nature on your doorstep: emerging leaves, frogspawn, or the first bluebell



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

#becauseofyou

**We started Nature Babies –
so our little ones can grow up
with a natural curiosity**

thank you

Help more and more little ones discover the joys of nature by leaving a gift in your Will.
Give today www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/leave-gift-your-will or call 01773 881188

Image: © Janko Ferlic

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk