

# Wild Avon

## 40 YEARS OF AVON WILDLIFE TRUST

Look back on the success of the past 40 years and forward to our new 10-year strategy

## TOGETHER FOR NATURE

Gillian Burke reflects on diversity in conservation

BLUE BUTTERFLIES

# True blue

Six spots to see these flying gems



Avon

# Welcome



Welcome to your spring *Wild Avon* magazine, helping you plan your spring and summer outings as lockdown restrictions start to ease. As the world begins to reopen, make sure to keep nature connectedness at the forefront of your celebrations.

This past year has seen a lot of change for how we work as an organisation but also increased our ambition for what we want to achieve for local wildlife. 2020 saw the end of our five-year strategy in which we outlined our plans to create ecological networks through landscape-scale habitat management and enhancement, inspire people and communities to care for nature and champion the value of nature.

I am proud to say that, together with the ongoing support of our loyal members, we have achieved this in so many ways. We have created and restored habitats through our Nature Recovery Network and Biodiversity Lines (B-Lines) work. We have inspired and engaged communities through projects such as My Wild City and Wellbeing with Nature. And we have championed the value of nature with our successful badger vaccination programme and influencing three of the four councils in Avon to declare an ecological emergency.

Our focus now turns to the future of Avon's wildlife. We have ambitious goals for the next ten years to create more space for nature to survive and thrive, which we know we can achieve with your help. The minimum space for nature needed to help wildlife survive is 30% of land and sea by 2030. We are ready for this challenge and are also aiming to lock up carbon in improved natural habitats and continue to support local communities and organisations to engage at least one in four people to care for and take action for wildlife. Our goals are bold and ambitious but I believe that with you by our side, we can make this vision a reality.

Turn to page 16 to reflect on what we have achieved together over the past 40 years, read more about our plans to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies by 2030 and what you can do to help.

## Ian Barrett

Chief Executive of Avon Wildlife Trust

Follow me on twitter @IanBarrettSW

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GUY EDUARDES/2020VISION

## Avon Wildlife Trust *Get in touch*

*Wild Avon* is the membership magazine for **Avon Wildlife Trust**, your local wildlife charity, working to secure a strong future for the natural environment and to inspire people to care for it. With the support of over 17,000 members and 1,150 volunteers, the Trust cares for over 30 nature reserves, runs educational and community programmes, advises landowners, and campaigns on issues that threaten wildlife habitats.

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**Facebook** @avonwt  
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Ross Hoddinott/2020VISION





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**Increase** your membership donation. Help us to continue the fight to bring wildlife back by increasing your membership donation today, so that we can all benefit from nature on our doorstep. [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/increasedonation](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/increasedonation)

**Volunteer** Sign up to receive our volunteer newsletter to learn about opportunities to get involved. [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteernews](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteernews)

**Campaign** We need your voice to amplify campaigns, lobby and raise awareness for urgent local issues such as fighting the ecological emergency, reversing insect decline and creating a connected network of habitats for wildlife. [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/campaign](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/campaign)

**Fundraise** Set yourself a challenge or organise an event to fundraise with family and friends to help wildlife in our region. [fundraising.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](https://www.fundraising.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### Gift donation

Show someone you care about them and the wildlife they love by making a gift donation in their name for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries or just because. [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/giftdonation](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/giftdonation)

### Include a gift in your will

Celebrate your love for local wildlife by giving a gift that could last for generations. [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/giftinwill](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/giftinwill)





# Woodland ground flora

A photograph of a woodland ground covered in white flowers with yellow centers, likely wood anemones, with large trees in the background. The flowers are in sharp focus in the foreground, while the trees are slightly out of focus in the background. The scene is set in a grassy woodland area with several large, mature trees.

Many spring-flowering woodland plants rely on ants to disperse their seeds. The ants are attracted by nutrient-rich appendages on the seeds called 'elaiosomes'.





## Thank you

Thanks to your membership, we are able to undertake management of our rides and woodland edges and keep them light and open for woodland flowers to bloom in profusion

### SPRING SPECTACLE

Spring is when the woodland floor is at its most colourful. Most native trees have not yet produced their leaves, so many plants take advantage of the damp soil conditions and abundant sunlight reaching the ground to flower.

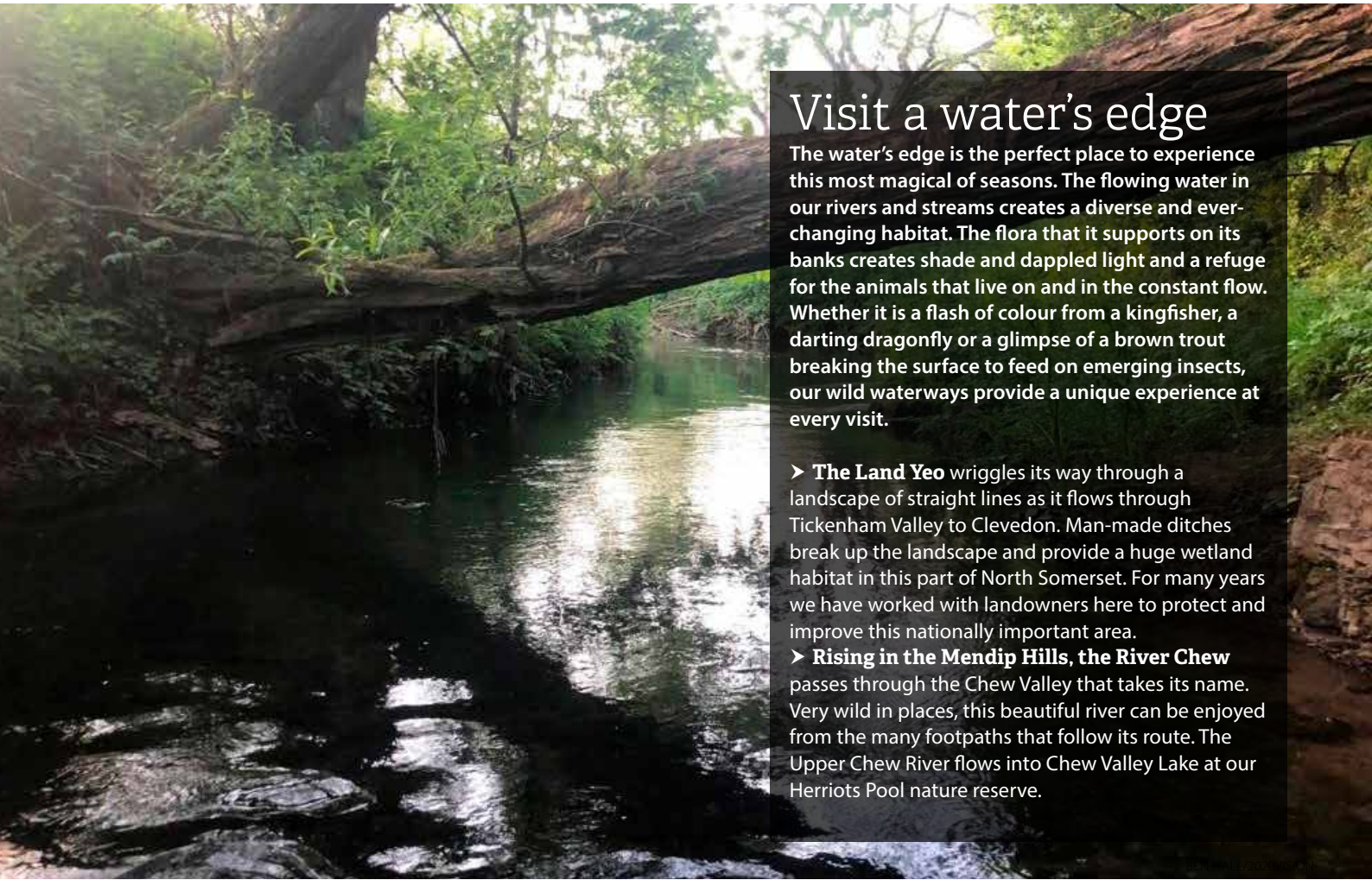
Pale primroses are one of the first to flower, but from March they are joined by the vivid purples and blues of early dog violets, bluebells and early purple orchids, the striking white of greater stitchwort, wood anemone and wild garlic and the cheerful yellows of lesser celandine and yellow archangel.

Some later-flowering species use a different strategy. Their seeds may survive for years in the soil, waiting for an opening in the canopy before germinating. The woodland coppicing undertaken by our Reserves team creates the light levels needed for these plants and may double the diversity of ground flora in these areas.

### SEE THEM THIS SPRING

- **Prior's Wood** is famous for its carpet of bluebells, but the wild garlic displays on this reserve are equally spectacular (and even more strongly scented!).
- **Weston Big Wood**, an ancient limewood in the Gordano Valley, is host to a variety of woodland flora. Look out for small colonies of herb-paris among the abundant patches of dog's mercury, and for toothwort, a parasite on tree roots.
- **Lower Woods** is the largest area of woodland in Avon and host to an astonishing diversity of ground flora. The rides are a great place for orchid-spotting, with early purples abundant in the spring.





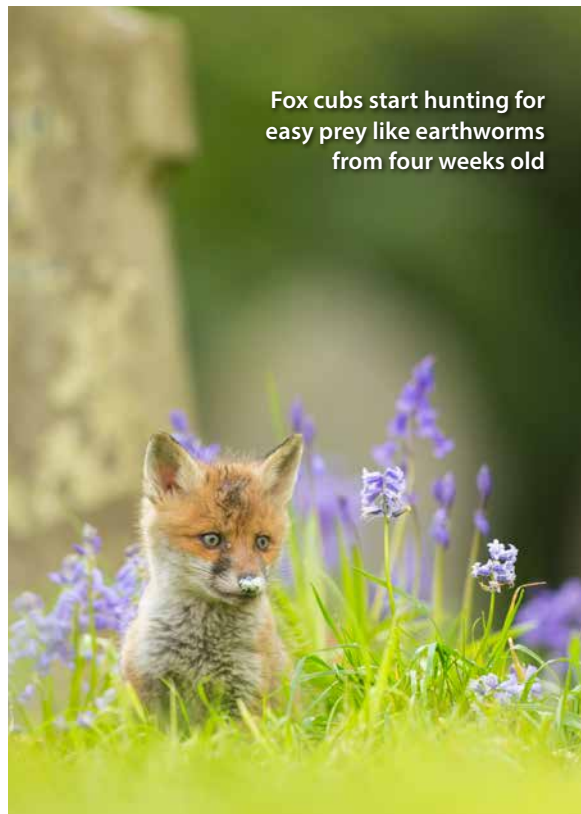
## Visit a water's edge

The water's edge is the perfect place to experience this most magical of seasons. The flowing water in our rivers and streams creates a diverse and ever-changing habitat. The flora that it supports on its banks creates shade and dappled light and a refuge for the animals that live on and in the constant flow. Whether it is a flash of colour from a kingfisher, a darting dragonfly or a glimpse of a brown trout breaking the surface to feed on emerging insects, our wild waterways provide a unique experience at every visit.

► **The Land Yeo** wriggles its way through a landscape of straight lines as it flows through Tickenham Valley to Clevedon. Man-made ditches break up the landscape and provide a huge wetland habitat in this part of North Somerset. For many years we have worked with landowners here to protect and improve this nationally important area.

► **Rising in the Mendip Hills, the River Chew** passes through the Chew Valley that takes its name. Very wild in places, this beautiful river can be enjoyed from the many footpaths that follow its route. The Upper Chew River flows into Chew Valley Lake at our Herriots Pool nature reserve.

TIM CURLEY



Fox cubs start hunting for easy prey like earthworms from four weeks old

### URBAN FIELDCRAFT

## Fox cubs

Foxes are easiest to see between May and July when their cubs are young. The cubs will often spend time out in the open, practicing their hunting and survival skills while the adults watch nearby.

Fox cubs are born with their eyes closed and they open at around 14 days old. Cubs have grey fur until eight weeks old when they develop their adult colouring but still look fuzzy. By summer, young foxes can be told apart from adults by their thinner coat and lanky appearance.

Foxes have a varied diet and can live anywhere there is a good food supply, so are often seen in urban areas. They will find shelter in overgrown vegetation or under garden sheds. A study in one area of Bristol found two to five families

of foxes on average for every square kilometre. Each family has a territory that they defend and young foxes leave the family group in autumn to find their own patch.

### How to HELP FOX CUBS

► **Leave them be** If you see a fox cub on its own, it is best to leave it as the parents are likely to be nearby. A female fox will sometimes move her litter if their home is disturbed, so wait to see if she returns for the cub.

► **Wild and free** Foxes are wary of people, cats and dogs, and will usually avoid them. They may learn to trust people who do not threaten them and can appear unconcerned by human presence, but they are wild animals and it is important not to encourage them.

JAMIE HALL





## SEE THIS

Look out for spring hares! Males and females fight or 'box' as part of their breeding season in March, with females producing three to four litters of two to four young (leverets).

## DO THIS

As birdsong starts to fill the air, make a bird feeder and see who comes to visit your garden or windowsill. You could try a mix of bird seed, cooked rice, grated cheese, dried fruit, breadcrumbs or chopped nuts.

## SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

# Damselflies

Strikingly-coloured aerial hunters, we most often see the final stage in a damselfly's life, the majority of which is spent underwater. Damselflies are a delight to behold once the weather starts warming up.

### Dragonfly or damselfly?

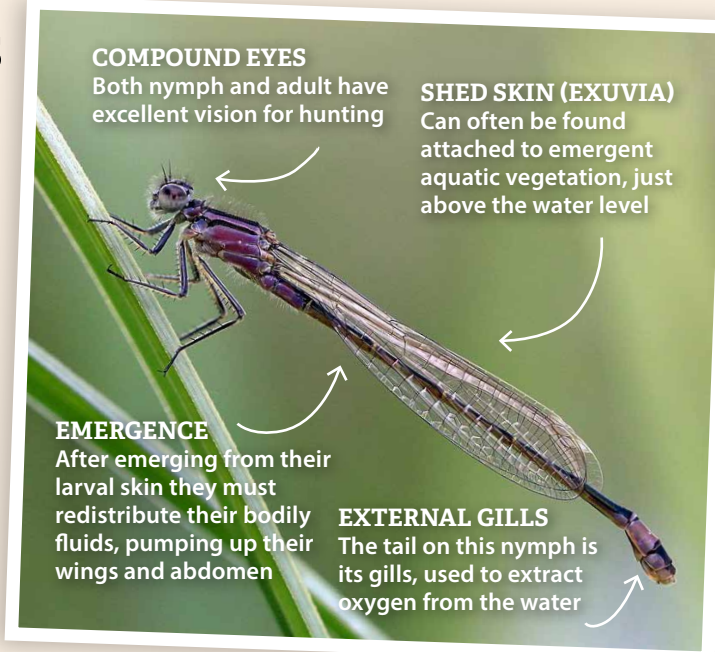
Damselflies are smaller and daintier than dragonflies and have several other distinguishing features. Where dragonflies are strong, fast and purposeful in flight, damselflies are typically weak and fly only briefly. A damselfly's eyes are separated where a dragonfly's are joined, and when at rest their wings are generally (though not always) folded neatly together behind the back, as opposed to dragonfly wings that are held at right angles to the body.

### Underwater times

Damselfly eggs are laid in mud, vegetation or rotting wood, either underwater or just above the water line. After emerging from the egg, most of a damselfly's life is spent underwater as a nymph, where they undergo several moults as they grow. They are voracious aquatic predators, using their hinged lower jaw like an arm that shoots forwards to catch prey. Eventually they crawl out of the water, breaking through their larval skin and leaving behind an exuvia.

### Where they are

There are approximately 20 breeding species of damselfly in the UK and they can be found almost anywhere with still water, rivers or streams nearby. They live for months to years



#### COMPOUND EYES

Both nymph and adult have excellent vision for hunting

#### SHED SKIN (EXUVIA)

Can often be found attached to emergent aquatic vegetation, just above the water level

#### EMERGENCE

After emerging from their larval skin they must redistribute their bodily fluids, pumping up their wings and abdomen

#### EXTERNAL GILLS

The tail on this nymph is its gills, used to extract oxygen from the water

CHARLES J SHARP

as nymphs, but often no more than a week or two as an adult. While some species of adult damselfly can be seen in large groups, others are fiercely territorial. They are typically seen on sunny, still, warm days from March through to October, feeding on other insects.

### SEE THEM THIS SPRING & SUMMER

➤ **Weston Moor** The rhynes are a good place to spot a wide range of damselflies, including the large red from March to September, the azure and blue-tailed from April to September and the emerald from May to October.

➤ **Puxton Moor** Find a quiet spot to sit and watch damselflies display some of their typical behaviours, including territorial defence, courtship and egg-laying (oviposition).



### Reserve information and maps

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves)

**Did you know that damselflies can be seen flying 'in tandem' while mating, which can take up to six hours!**



ROSS HODDINOTT/2020VISION

### Top tips

### 3 SPECIES TO SPOT

#### Blue-tailed damselfly

The best damselfly to see when the sun isn't shining. Large numbers can be seen around plants that grow around the water's edge.



RICHARD BURKMAR

#### Banded demoiselle

Frequenting slow-moving rivers and streams, the fluttering flight of the demoiselles can lead to people mistaking them for butterflies.



RAY HOLDEN

#### Large red damselfly

One of our most widespread damselflies, the first species to emerge in spring, it will readily colonise small garden ponds..



CHARLES J SHARP

## HEAR THIS

Listen out for the cuckoo's two-syllable call. It is the male common cuckoo which makes the familiar uh-coo sound. The female makes a bubbling call, like water running down a bath plughole.

## FORAGE FOR THIS

Spring is the season for foraging fresh green leaves, but take care to identify species correctly. Nettles are great picked in spring for use in soups or sautéed with butter or olive oil. Gloves recommended!



JON HAWKINS - SURREY HILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

### NOT JUST FOR KIDS

# Six ways to enjoy nature this spring

Why should kids have all the fun? Reignite your love of nature with these random acts of wildness



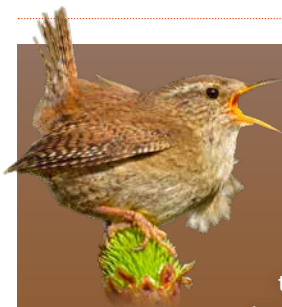
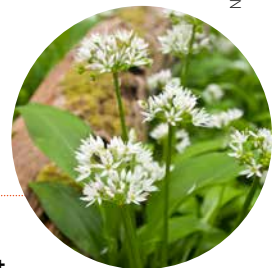
## 1 Garden for wildlife

Whether you live in a flat or a house with a garden, there are many ways you can garden for wildlife. You could create areas for wildlife to rest, made up of shrub or silver birch branches, or plant nectar-rich wildflowers, as well as building a pond – even if small. Not only will this be a great way to provide food, shelter and water for pollinators, birds and small mammals, but it is also a wonderful way to connect with nature, soak up the glory of spring and benefit your wellbeing. You can get wildflower seeds, plants, vegetables and herbs from our Grow Wilder nursery in Bristol to get you started. You could also join our monthly Wildlife Gardening Club to learn from experts and explore new topics each month: [growwilder.co.uk](http://growwilder.co.uk), [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

## 2 Savour the flavour of wild garlic

While on a woodland walk, look out for wild garlic with its long, pointed, glossy leaves. You might smell its garlicky, earthy and comforting scent filling the woodland air. An early spring bloomer trying to catch the light filtering down through the tree canopy, wild garlic provides nectar for hungry hoverflies, butterflies and bees, among other pollinators. It is also delicious in soups, salads and even pesto. When wild garlic isn't in flower it can be confused with lily-of-the-valley, which is poisonous. To tell the difference, be sure to do your research and check how the leaves grow. Along with several other plant species, wild garlic is an indicator of ancient woodland. For a fantastic spring day out, find some wild garlic and experience being in a beautiful ancient woodland. Our Folly Farm or Prior's Wood nature reserves are great places to start.

ROSS HODDINOTT/2020VISION



## 3 Wake up early and listen to the dawn chorus

Did you know that 2 May is International Dawn Chorus Day? Happening

on the first Sunday in May, people around the world rise to revel in nature's greatest symphony of sweet birdsong, rattling calls and melodious coos. This spring, rise early and go for a walk to enjoy the wonders of a spring dawn chorus. Or you could also just open your window to embrace the morning calls of spring all around you!

ANDY ROUSE/2020VISION



BOB COYLE

## 4 Try your hand at nature photography

With the warmer days and the light back, it is the perfect time to pick up something new or polish an old hobby. Why not try your hand at nature photography to get closer to nature and spend time outside?

## 5 Join our Lifelong Learning programme

Are you fascinated by wildlife and ecology? Our online learning courses cover everything from Bird Song ID to Wildlife Gardening and even the philosophy of Ecology! With interactive sessions and great discussions, these courses are a great way to keep learning and connect with like-minded people. With new seasonal courses being added all the time, keep your eye on our lifelong learning page: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/lifelonglearning](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/lifelonglearning)



RUSSELL SAVORY



## 6 Sleep outside

As the temperature starts to rise, the idea of spending prolonged time outside starts to become more appealing. Why not plan a camping trip for early summer, or even have one in your garden. You could put up a moth trap and listen out for nocturnal wildlife sounds coming to life around you and see what you can recognise. Look up at the stars and see if you can identify some of the constellations in the starry night's sky.



JACK PERKS



DONALD SUTHERLAND

## Spring reading: *Back to Nature* with George Cook from our Learning team



Reading natural history books is a great way to enjoy and learn about nature from the comfort of your own home without even having to put on your wellies!



A great book I recommend reading this spring is *Back to Nature* by Chris Packham and his stepdaughter Megan McCubbin, written during spring last year – an extremely unusual time when we were all locked down for the first time.

It was also a time when a lot of us, although isolated and anxious, were rediscovering nature and wildlife on our doorstep and the benefits and joy it can bring. Perhaps we were starting to glimpse and discover what a more nature-connected, wilder future could look like.

*Back to Nature* is a lovingly written and well-researched book that inspires us all to do more for nature. As Chris says, 'it has been there for us, now we need to be there for it.'

Chris and Megan cover some big issues in this book, including invasive species, bird crime, the state of our national parks, mental health, species reintroductions, salmon farming, HS2, rewilding and Extinction Rebellion. However, it also includes lots of practical advice about how to protect nature at home, from growing your own wildflower meadow to creating a wildlife pond that will also act as an important carbon sink. By covering such a wide range of topics, this book will include something for everyone, no matter how much you know about wildlife and conservation.

Megan also breaks the book up with fascinating snippets of science on a wide variety of topics which you will want to tell your friends about, from dragonfly vision and birds practicing their songs while sleeping to flirting earthworms and a butterfly's heartbeat.

At a time of ecological emergency, *Back to Nature* will inspire you to 'love life – and save it!'



## 7 Make a seed bomb

Brighten up public areas with wildflower seed bombs and support a wide range of insects that could not otherwise survive in built-up urban areas. Throwing, breaking up or digging 'seed bombs' into areas in your garden or local green spaces is the perfect way to spend the afternoon! You will need:

Nature craft

- Meadow flower seeds or seeds collected from your garden
- Water
- Powdered clay (found in craft shops)
- Peat-free compost
- Mixing bowl



CORRINE WELSH

### Creating your seed bomb:

- 1 In a bowl, mix together 1 cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 2-3 cups of clay powder (you could use clay soil instead if you have it)
- 2 Slowly mix in water with your hands until everything sticks together
- 3 Roll the mixture into firm balls
- 4 Leave the balls to dry in a sunny spot
- 5 Now for the fun bit. Plant your seed bombs by throwing them at bare parts of the garden and wait to see what pops up!

Visit our website for more actions to help wildlife this spring: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/actions](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/actions)





# Discover Walton Common

Walton Common is a 25-hectare nature reserve close to the village of Walton-in-Gordano. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its species-rich limestone grassland, which offers spectacular views of the Gordano Valley and Severn Estuary.



IAN ROSE

**W**alton Common is a fantastic site to visit in the spring as the limestone grassland becomes covered in a carpet of wildflowers that is a precious refuge for wildlife. You will be surrounded by pollinators that thrive on the wildflowers, while the encircling woodland provides food and shelter for a variety of species. In this historic landscape, you will also find traces of previous generations stretching as far back as the Bronze Age, making it a perfect day out for nature and history lovers.

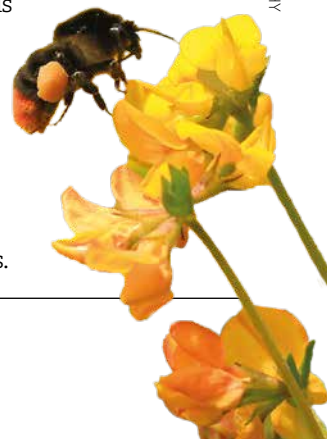
## Enjoy the beautiful open landscape

In spring, brighter colours begin to return to the common as the first flowers bloom and green leaves unfurl from the trees. A circular walk around the nature reserve will allow you to take in the grassland, woodland and archaeological features, as well as spectacular views. Look

out from the common and you can see the Gordano Valley stretching away before you. Stop at the top of the old quarry on a clear day for views of the Severn Estuary and South Wales coast.

Historically, local people had the right to graze their animals on common land. This kept the grassland open and protected the land from development or intensive farming, and the meadow is particularly rich in plant species as a result.

Limestone grassland is a rare and threatened habitat. Use of common land for grazing animals gradually declined in the 20th century and scrub began to take over. Hard work from Avon Wildlife Trust volunteers, the support of our members and the return of cattle to graze the meadow is helping to restore this precious site. Dexter cattle are a hardy breed that eat rough grasses that would otherwise crowd out the wildflowers.



JON HAWKINS - SURREY HILLS PHOTOGRAPHY





**Thanks**  
 Our supporters and weekly volunteer group help to protect Walton Common and maintain this incredibly special nature reserve for people and wildlife.

common and was traditionally used as a remedy for ailments such as burns.

Grassland plants are an important source of food for pollinating insects like bees, butterflies and hoverflies. See how many different butterflies you can spot when you visit, as over 35 species have been recorded at the reserve. Spring butterflies include speckled wood around the woodland edge and common blue in the meadow. You may even be lucky enough to spot a bee fly. This large family of insects look superficially like bees, which might be an evolutionary tactic to put off predators. Unlike bees, they cannot retract the proboscis that they use to feed on nectar and pollen, and have large compound eyes like other flies.



DAVE HORLICK

Woodland edges and glades provide a crucial habitat for wildlife, including birds and small mammals. Regularly cutting back scrub and coppicing hazel increases the amount of light reaching the ground and leads to greater plant diversity. Walton Common is cared for by Avon Wildlife Trust with the help of a dedicated weekly group of volunteers. Find out more about their work and the species that can be found on the reserve on our Volunteer Warden's blog.



JANET PACHHAM

The wildflowers have evolved to grow in nutrient-poor soils, so the grazing promotes biodiversity in the way nature intended.

Spring flowers you can find on the common include early purple orchids, which can be identified from the dark splotches on their leaves and a dense spike of purple-pink flowers. From June, look for the elegant St John's wort, which creates a sea of yellow across the slopes of the

**DID YOU KNOW** Legally, common land cannot be enclosed, and you may notice that there is nothing visibly keeping the cattle from escaping! This is because there is an invisible fence around the grassland. A wire buried underneath the ground transmits a radio signal. Each cow wears a collar that can receive this signal. If they get too close to the wire their collar will beep and if they get closer still, the collar sends out a short pulse. The cattle are quick to recognise the sound and learn where the fence is to stay safely within the grassland. The radio signal has no effect on people or wildlife.

## NOW YOU DO IT

### 1 Visit Walton Common

#### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

**Location:** Walton Street, Walton-in-Gordano, Clevedon BS21 7AP

**How to get there:** Three public footpaths cross Walton Common. Footpaths lead onto the nature reserve from Walton Street and the B3124.

**Opening times:** Free entry all year round.

**Access:** Dogs must be kept on leads or under close control, depending on the traffic light system explained at the reserve entrance. Footpath access from Walton Street is steep and unsuitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

**Phone:** 0117 917 7270

**Email:** [mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**Website:** [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/waltoncommon](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/waltoncommon)

Walton Common Volunteer Warden's blog: [waltoncommon.wordpress.com](http://waltoncommon.wordpress.com)

#### TOP WILDLIFE TO SPOT

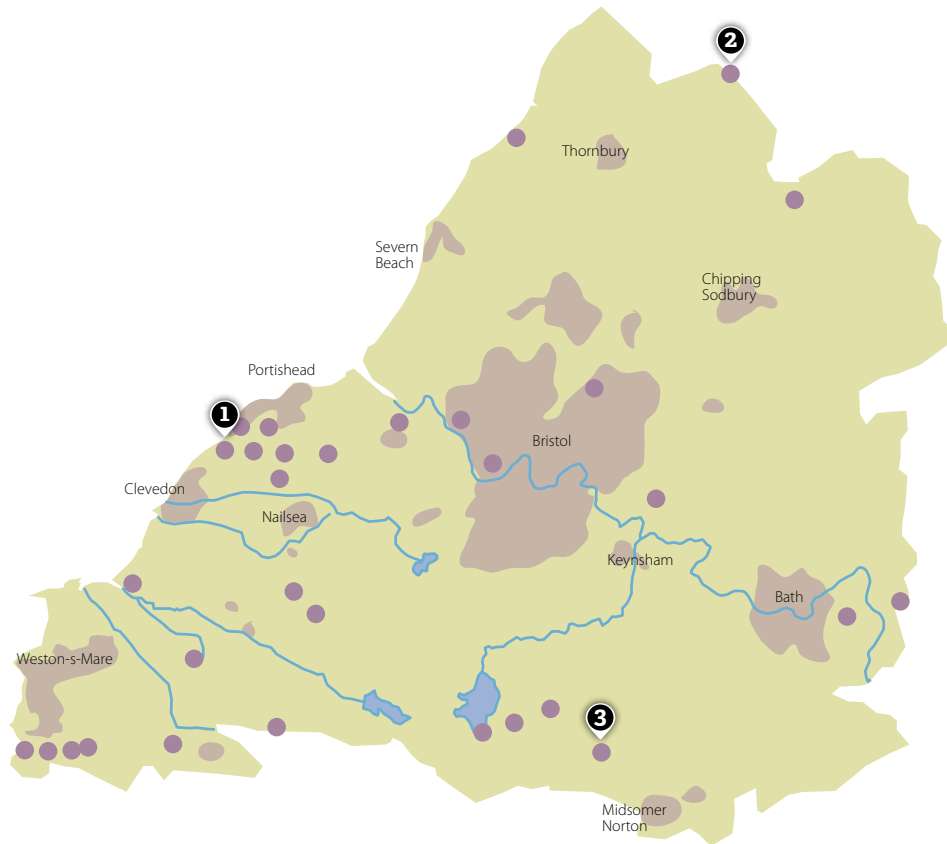
- Look for **wildflowers** such as wild marjoram, violets, early purple orchid and yellow rattle. From May, bird's-foot trefoil, salad burnet and eyebright begin to flower.
- **Butterflies** that feed on flowering plants in the grassland and can be seen in spring include peacock, common blue and brimstone.
- In the woodland and scrub, **birds** begin to build their nests in late March and April. Look for jays, tits and blackbirds searching for food and nesting materials.
- **Dexter cattle** are the smallest native breed of cattle in the UK. They are hardy and eat the coarse grasses that would otherwise crowd out wildflowers on the common.

#### THINGS TO DO

- Spring is the best time of year to listen for birdsong in the woodland. Easy calls to identify are those of the chiffchaff, which says its name, 'chiff-chaff', and the repeated 'tea-cher' of the great tit.
- A Bronze Age earthwork, known as the banjo, crosses the path and is still obvious today. The circular enclosure is shaped like a banjo and was probably used as a livestock pen.
- A circular walk around the reserve takes in the grassland, woodland, archaeology and views from the top of the disused quarry.



# More Avon Wildlife Trust nature reserves for a **spring day out**



## 2 Charfield Meadow

### Why now?

Experience life returning to Charfield Meadow in spring, as bright yellow cowslips pepper the grassland and a variety of woodland birds can be seen in the trees. Look out for the first orange tip and brimstone butterflies. You can take in the whole of this small but lovely nature reserve in a short loop walk.

### Know before you go

**Location:** Charfield, Wotton-under-Edge, GL12 8EX

**Open:** Free entry all year round, dawn to dusk

**Wildlife to spot:** green woodpecker, cowslips, orange tip butterfly

### Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/charfieldmeadow](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/charfieldmeadow)

### The lowdown

Charfield Meadow is one of Avon Wildlife Trust's oldest reserves. It was bought from British Rail in 1988 and sits alongside the Bristol to Gloucester railway line, close to the village of Charfield in South Gloucestershire. Look out for the remains of a signal box next to the path. This nature

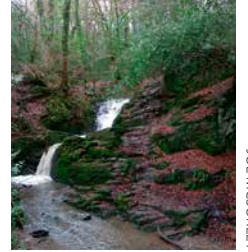
reserve is a hidden gem, with a huge range of biodiversity despite its small size. The grassland has never been disturbed or fertilised so it is rich in wildflowers, with over 180 species recorded here. Look out for purple sweet violet, yellow cowslips and pale blue forget-me-not. These flowers provide an early source of nectar for pollinators, and you may spot the distinctive sulphur yellow of the male brimstone butterfly. Anthills across the site provide food for green woodpeckers, so look out for their distinctive swooping flight and listen for their loud call, a 'laugh' known as a yaffle. In the woodland, you might see chattering flocks of long-tailed tits balancing in the branches. Keep an eye on the ground for purple bugle, yellow primroses and bluebells.



## 3 Stephen's Vale

### Why now?

Spring is the perfect time of year for this woodland walk, as bright green leaves unfurl on trees and plants on the ground send out new shoots.



JOE MCSORLEY

Look out for grey wagtail feeding around the stream that runs through the reserve. During late April and May, bluebells can be seen on the woodland floor.

### Know before you go

**Location:** Hallatrow, Bristol, BS39 6EF

**Open:** Free entry all year round, dawn to dusk

**Wildlife to spot:** grey wagtail, bluebells, speckled wood butterfly

### Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/stephensvale](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/stephensvale)

### The lowdown

Stephen's Vale is part of a larger woodland, once part of the Earl of Warwickshire's estate and hunting grounds. Neighbouring Greyfield Wood is managed by the Woodland Trust and these connected habitats are crucial for wildlife, offering more space and a safe means of travel in search of food. This woodland has the added benefit of a waterfall and stream that supports a variety of birds, insects and plants that favour wet ground. These include grey wagtail, which often perch on exposed stones in the water. Look out for their bright yellow underparts and bobbing tail. Alder trees like the damp soil here, and historically alder wood has been used for boat building as it withstands rotting. Speckled wood butterflies can be seen from March onwards, resting in patches of sunlight in the woodland. They have brown wings edged with distinctive yellow eye spots. Look for butterbur alongside the river, with its large heart-shaped leaves. In flower from March to May, its pink flower spikes offer insects an early source of pollen and nectar.



Plan your next great day out at our nature reserves:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves)





## Gillian Burke

 @gillians\_voice

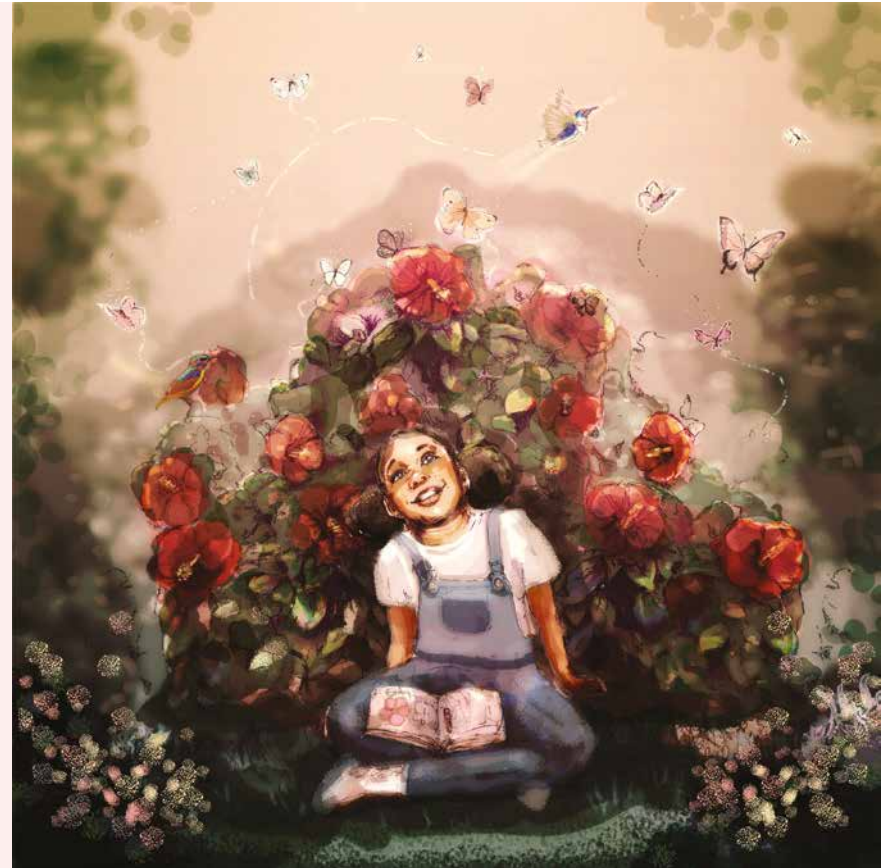
# Together for nature



It was *the* best little hide! A hibiscus bush with the perfect little-girl-sized hollow, where I would spend whole mornings, watching butterflies and jewel-like sunbirds flitting and darting nervously from flower to flower. I had no access to field guides and no idea what the birds were called. To be perfectly honest, it didn't really matter because I was quite content with just watching and occasionally trying to draw what I saw in a little notebook. This was my Kenya in the late seventies. No internet, no clubs, no daytime telly, no distractions — just the world outside to explore and discover.

With time and freedom on my side, I got to know the many moods of the natural world. Beautiful flowers hid thorns, lush green grass hid snakes, the same wondrous sun, that gently warmed up the day, would birth violent afternoon storms that, in turn, gave way to the cooling sweet smell of the earth. I loved it all. All this gave me a profound sense, even as a little girl, that everything in nature had its place.

My younger self had yet to learn that this is what biologists call diversity — the single word that describes the infinite possibilities, expressions and connections of life on earth. From a biologist's perspective, all this variety is not just the spice of life, it is the source of nature's resilience and adaptability.



Viewed with this lens it is hard, therefore, to believe that there is still the need to debate diversity in the conservation and environmental sector but clearly we do. From senior leadership roles to volunteer positions, just 0.6% are from black, mixed and other ethnic groups. This is a famously quoted figure and one that likely extends to under-representation from white working class backgrounds as well.

One thing that we can all agree on is that we have the fight of our lives right now in meeting the twin challenges of the climate and ecological crisis. As 2020 is set to go down in history as 'one hell of a year', there is a precious opportunity to set a course for a truly 21<sup>st</sup> century mind-set. If we are ever really going to walk the walk and actually *do* things differently, we are going to need the full power of diverse voices and perspectives to forge resilience and adaptability in a fresh, new system that serves everyone and everything, and exploits nothing and no one.



The Wildlife Trusts are committed to putting equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of our movement. Find out more:



[wildlifetrusts.org/wild-about-inclusion](https://wildlifetrusts.org/wild-about-inclusion)

### WILDER IS HEALTHIER

Research published by The Wildlife Trusts in 2019 showed that children experience profound and diverse benefits through regular contact with nature. It's essential that all children (and adults too) have the opportunity to experience nature in their daily lives, but 42% of people from minority ethnic backgrounds live in the most green-space deprived areas, compared to just 15% of white people\*. We need at least 30% of land to be restored for nature, helping wildlife recover and bringing nature into everyone's daily lives.

**Gillian Burke** is a biologist and wildlife presenter and has recently become vice president of The Wildlife Trusts.



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# 6 places to see blue butterflies

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COMMON BLUE © GUY EDWARDS/2020VISION

Common blue butterflies  
are found in grassy places  
across the UK





**T**he blue butterflies are some of our most dazzling and endearing insects; winged gems that come alive in the spring or summer sunlight and dance from flower to flower. They shimmer in shades of blue and silver, though a few of the UK's nine resident species are misleadingly brown. Some of these butterflies are now only found in the few places their favoured habitat remains. Many of these areas are now nature reserves, protected by The Wildlife Trusts. Some, however, can be seen more widely: common blues emerge around May and fly over many grasslands, including road verges, and holly blues appear around April to flutter through parks and gardens. Your best chance of spotting butterflies is on a calm, sunny day.

## See the spectacle for yourself



### **1 Dolebury Warren, Avon Wildlife Trust**

This Iron Age hillfort is home to the rare small blue, which feeds solely on kidney vetch. Common blue butterflies are easier to spot, particularly around the chalk grassland from April to October.

**Where:** Near Churchill, BS40 5DL

### **2 Walton Common, Avon Wildlife Trust**

This reserve's extensive grassland and woodland edge supports an amazing array of butterflies. These include holly blue, which is the first of the blue family to emerge in early spring.

**Where:** Walton-in-Gordano, BS21 7AW

### **3 Browne's Folly, Avon Wildlife Trust**

Alongside the woodland, this reserve has areas of wildflower grassland that are home to common blue butterflies. The colour of the upperwings varies throughout the UK, from brown to bright blue.

**Where:** Bathford, BA1 7TW

### **4 Yoesden, Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust**

This swathe of beautiful chalk grassland, topped with woodland, is known as one of the best butterfly spots in the Chilterns. It's home to six blue butterfly species — Adonis, chalkhill, small, common, and holly blues, and brown argus.

**Where:** Near Radnage and Bledlow Ridge, HP14 4AR

### **5 Daneway Banks, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

This wonderful wildflower meadow is regarded as one of the best places in the world to see the rare large blue, which was once extinct in the UK.

**Where:** Near Sapperton, GL7 6LN

### **6 Malling Down, Sussex Wildlife Trust**

Adonis blue and chalkhill blue butterflies dance over the sun-kissed slopes of this flower-rich chalk grassland, where small blues can also be discovered.

**Where:** Near Lewes, BN7 2RJ

## *Did you discover any butterflies?*

When spotting butterflies, please be sure to follow Government guidance on social distancing and stay local. And remember to tweet us your best photos!

@avonwt



# Celebrating 40 YEARS



**1980** Avon Wildlife Trust was launched on 5th May with the twin objectives of wildlife conservation and education. Three members of staff were appointed, 1,000 members were recruited by the end of May and four nature reserves gifted from Somerset and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trusts.



**1988** Our appeal and bids to purchase Folly Farm drew to a successful conclusion, with major donations from Cadbury's, the Duchy of Cornwall, local groups and members, as well as a generous, anonymous donation of £200,000. Planning permission was granted to develop the farm buildings as a farming and wildlife centre.

**1981** We leased Brandon Hill Nature Reserve in Bristol, the country's first city centre nature reserve, and Willsbridge Valley and Mill, which would lead to the Willsbridge Project and the creation of an Education Centre.



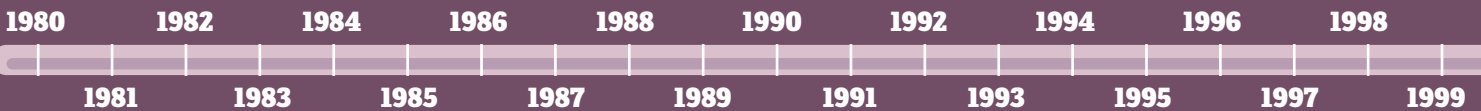
**1990** The Trust started a campaign against the proposed development at Royate Hill. With help from the local community, we kept a close watch on the site until the council took the unprecedented step of issuing a compulsory purchase order. In January 1996, Royate Hill was finally turned into a statutory Local Nature Reserve.



**1983** We appointed our first full-time Director and Conservation Officer, thanks to a grant from the Nature Conservancy Council. We also purchased an extension to Browne's Folly and took on the lease for Dolebury Warren, as well as working on a dozen urban sites in Bristol. Membership grew to over 3,000 and the 15 local and Wildlife Watch groups went from strength to strength.



**1991** Our Tree Appeal, launched after the big storm of 1990, raised sufficient funds to appoint a Woodlands Officer who began a 5-year programme of woodland restoration projects on Trust reserves.



**1984** We signed the lease to secure the ancient Weston Big Wood, which for many years had been threatened by mineral extraction, bringing the Trust's total number of reserves to 16.



**1993** The Trust launched its Wildlife Campaign to protect urban green spaces and produce wildlife strategies across the county of Avon to protect wildlife within our cities.

**1985** Sir David Attenborough gave a lecture at the Colston Hall as part of his countrywide tour to launch the British Wildlife Appeal. He also opened the new Trust headquarters at the Old Police Station in Bristol and paid a flying visit to our Willsbridge Valley nature reserve.

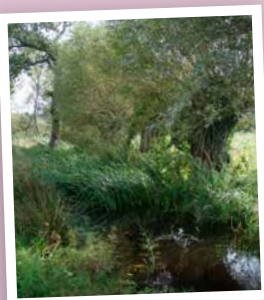


**1995** The North Somerset Levels Project was launched to raise awareness of and protect the North Somerset Levels and Moors.



**1996** Walborough becomes the first nature reserve bought with Heritage Lottery funding.

**1986** The Gordano Valley Project launched to draw up a strategy for the future of the area. Lawrence Weston Moor became the Trust's 23rd nature reserve.



**1998** We begin our project to raise water levels at Clapton Moor, encouraging an increase in birdlife including lapwing and snipe.





We missed our 40th Birthday year due to coronavirus, but we are celebrating it now. Thank you so much for your support, this is what you helped achieve over the last forty years.



**1999** Weston Moor Reserve, an important wetland site in the Gordano Valley, was purchased with the help of the residents of Weston-in-Gordano, the Heritage Lottery Fund and YANSEC.



**2012** The West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) was established to implement a more joined up approach to reverse the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems. Feed Bristol was created to engage local communities and promote sustainable food growing, thanks to £300,000 of funding from the Big Lottery's Local Food Fund and Bristol Green Capital, with support from Bristol City Council.

**2000** We gained two new reserves, Tickenham Hill thanks to YANSEC funding and Burledge Hill thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We launched our Bristol Bird Watch survey, which ran for 10 years, and Boris, the oldest greater horseshoe bat ever recorded, was discovered at Browne's Folly.



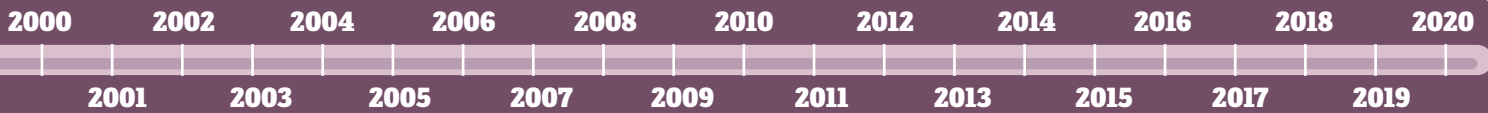
**2013** We worked in partnership with Natural England to install tilting weir structures to raise water levels and enhance the wetland habitat on both Weston Moor and the Gordano National Nature Reserve, with part-funding from the Environment Agency.



**2001** The School Grounds Project was established to work with schools to improve their grounds for wildlife and education.



**2015** As part of Bristol's Green Capital Year, we launched our My Wild City project to work with communities to create habitats in urban areas throughout Bristol, created Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock nature reserve from old sports fields and started our partnership with Buglife to run the B-Lines project.



**2002** The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded £2.56 million for the development of the farm buildings and the restoration of grassland habitats and historical features at Folly Farm. Folly Farm Centre launched in 2008.



**2016** We were awarded funding to create the Wellbeing with Nature project which focused on connections to nature to improve the health and wellbeing of people experiencing mental ill health and those living with long-term health conditions.



**2005** The Trust purchased Prior's Wood through the generous support of members, the public, local parish councils, charitable trusts, and a major donation by YANSEC.

**2008** We launched Wildflower Grasslands, our first Living Landscapes project, working with landowners to protect and restore wildflower-rich areas in a joined-up way.

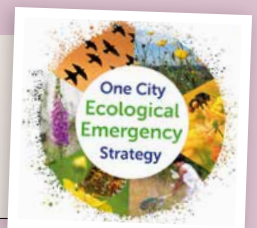


**2019** The National Heritage Lottery Fund awarded three years of funding to continue our My Wild City initiative, transforming eight hidden wildlife havens across Bristol and connecting hundreds of local people to their near-by green spaces. Hutton Hill nature reserve was gifted to the Trust by Mr Bernard Cole.



**2009** Through funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, our People and Wildlife programme began with a community-based approach to engaging people across the whole of Avon.

**2020** We inspired declarations of an ecological emergency in Bristol, B&NES and North Somerset and developed an Ecological Emergency Strategy for Bristol, with the aim of securing 30% of land and sea for wildlife by 2030.



**2021** We have great plans for the future with our new strategy. As one of over 17,000 members, you are helping to make this happen...





# Bringing wildlife back

STEVE NICHOLLS

## OUR GOALS

### nature's recovery

- Target: 30% of land managed for the benefit of wildlife

We need to make more space for nature to thrive to give our struggling wildlife the chance to recover and restore a diverse range of beautiful wild places.

### people taking action for nature

- Target: 1 in 4 people taking action for wildlife

The science shows that if just one person in every four takes action for wildlife, it can be enough to change the minds and behaviour of the majority which will help to put nature into recovery.

### nature-based solutions

- Target: 1,000 hectares of habitat restored to provide nature-based solutions

We want to restore and create good quality habitat to soak up carbon from the atmosphere to help tackle the climate crisis and promote an abundance of biodiversity across Avon's landscape.

## Vision

We want to see nature recovering on a grand scale across Avon and everyone in our community to be able to enjoy wildlife on their doorstep.

## Mission

We will enable the recovery of wildlife by managing our land and working in partnership to restore, create and connect habitats to increase species abundance. We will inspire and support people to connect with nature and take action for wildlife where they are.

## Our strategy

Later this year, we will launch our 10-year strategy that will ensure we are able to achieve our goals by 2030. We will only be able to achieve our ambitious vision for local people and wildlife with the support of dedicated members like you.



# Get involved

With your help, we can put nature into recovery by creating more space for wildlife to thrive and inspiring more people to care for nature on their doorstep. Here are some steps you can take to get involved:



VICKY NALL

- **Increase your membership donation** If each of our members increased their membership donation by just £1 a month, that could help raise an extra £100,000 a year for Avon's wildlife! Increase your membership donation at [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/increasedonation](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/increasedonation)
- **Get your team together to fundraise for wildlife** Whether by holding a weekly virtual quiz night, clocking up your steps taking your daily exercise or arranging an event for this summer, it can all help to raise money, making a huge difference to nature on your doorstep. Set up your fundraiser at [fundraising.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://fundraising.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)
- **Help secure 30% of land and sea for wildlife by 2030** The Wildlife Trusts' 30 by 30 campaign aims to raise £30 million for wildlife across the UK. Can you help to reach this target? Find out more on the next page!

"I've supported The Wildlife Trusts for the last 55 years. They are bringing wildlife back and restoring the natural world we love so much. Please support them as much as you can."  
**Sir David Attenborough**



BEN HALL/2020VISION

## Free online will writing service

Making or updating a will can be a daunting experience. We want our members to have peace of mind that their will is sorted without the hassle or expense that can sometimes come with traditional will writing services. That's why we are excited to offer our new free online will writing service with Guardian Angel. In just 15 minutes, you could complete your will to be checked by their in-house experts.

All we ask is that, after making sure your loved ones are cared for, you consider including a gift in your will to Avon Wildlife Trust to secure a wilder future for generations to come. Every single gift makes a difference, no matter how large or small, whether money or land. However, there is absolutely no obligation to include a gift in your will and you can still create a will for free.



Create your free will today at [gawill.uk/avonwt](http://gawill.uk/avonwt) or find out more at [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/giftinwill](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/giftinwill)

## Thank you

Thanks to your membership, we have managed to achieve so much for local wildlife over the past 40 years. You can help us achieve even more in the next 40 years.

## Your opinion matters

As a member, we value your opinion. Our members are the backbone of our organisation, as it was founded by some of you reading this over 40 years ago.

From what you think about your membership benefits and what your favourite reserves are to what more you think we should be doing for Avon's wildlife, it all helps to inform how we work into the future.

Enclosed with your magazine you will find this year's members' survey which we would love you to complete and return in the Freepost envelope provided or complete online at: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/haveyoursay](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/haveyoursay)



## Take action for wildlife at home

There are many ways you can help wildlife thrive from your home or in your local green space.

- **Grow wildflowers** in your garden, window box or local green space with plugs and seeds from our wildflower nursery, Grow Wilder: [growwilder.co.uk](http://growwilder.co.uk)
- **Learn how to create a wildlife-friendly garden**, what food attracts local wildlife, how to go peat-free and much more: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/actions](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/actions)
- **Increase your knowledge of nature and wildlife** by joining one of our courses: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/lifelonglearning](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/lifelonglearning)
- **Give your time as a volunteer** to create and restore habitats and engage more people with nature while developing new skills: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer)



# 30 by 30

## The decade we save our wildlife



**W**e know the natural world is in crisis. Every year we're overwhelmed with new statistics about the shocking losses in the wildlife around us, like last summer's news that a quarter of UK mammals face extinction. For decades we've worked hard to protect the few wild areas that remain, saving species in nature reserves and even bringing some back from local extinction. But to turn the tide, it's time we raise our ambitions.

The Wildlife Trusts are calling for at least 30% of our land and sea to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030. This goal is essential if we are to truly see a recovery in our natural world. Evidence suggests that at less than 30% cover in a landscape, habitat patches are too small and fragmented. They become isolated and the wildlife

populations living in them begin to decline. Giving 30% of the UK to nature is the bare minimum that nature needs to survive, but we're still far short of this goal.

Imagine living in a country where we make space for nature, finding ways to live alongside wildlife rather than clearing it to make room for ourselves. Restored wildlife-rich fens, resounding with the bugling calls of cranes and the booms of breeding bitterns. Diverse uplands that are a wonderful mosaic of colour and life, where hen harriers soar over carpets of heather, curlews call from boggy pools and pine martens leap between the branches of woodlands. Towns and cities blossoming with trees and flowers, where hedgehogs roam between parks and gardens bringing nature into all of our daily lives. Together, we can make this a reality.

**Hedgehogs have undergone massive long-term declines**





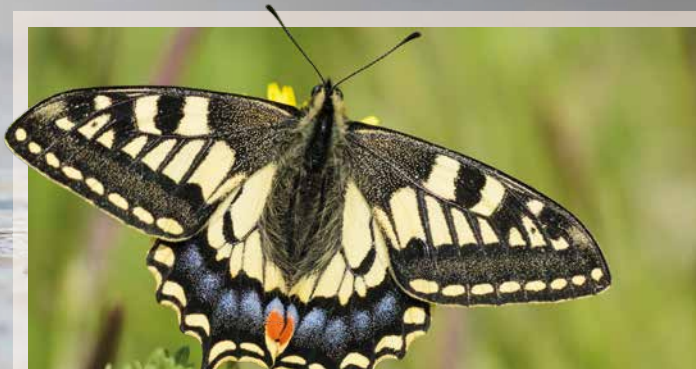
**Carbon farming,**  
*Lancashire Wildlife Trust*

One hectare of peatland can soak up the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> as would be produced by eight car journeys around the world, but huge areas of this vital habitat have been drained to make way for other land uses. Lancashire Wildlife Trust are rewetting and reinvigorating two important areas of peat bog, capturing carbon and helping rare wildlife like sundews and large heath butterflies to thrive. As part of this work, they're creating a pioneering carbon farm, thought to be the first of its kind in the UK. A carpet of sphagnum mosses will be grown on a former farm field to help soak up carbon and protect the adjacent peatland.



**Wild Peak,**  
*Derbyshire, Staffordshire and other Wildlife Trusts*

Working across the landscape of the Peak District in a partnership of five Wildlife Trusts, Wild Peak aims to bring these uplands back to life and make them wilder with a mix of restored habitats including woodlands, peat bogs and meadows. There will be more space for rare species like curlews and wood warblers, and eventually lost wildlife like pine martens, red squirrels and golden eagles could make a comeback. By working with partners and local groups, the Wildlife Trusts plan to restore natural processes and wild places so that they become full of life on an unprecedented scale, benefiting local communities, the local economy and, of course, wildlife.



**Restoring lost fens,**  
*Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust*

An ambitious plan is underway to restore 50 hectares of farmland to lost peat-fenland, boosting Lincolnshire's endangered fenland habitats by 30%. The new wetland will connect two of the Trust's existing nature reserves, creating a living landscape of reedbeds, marshes, and pools. The new wetlands will help bring iconic species back to the area, like bitterns, swallowtail butterflies and cranes, which last year nested in Lincolnshire for the first time in over 400 years.



**Bringing wildlife back,**  
*Warwickshire Wildlife Trust*

Simply protecting the areas already rich in wildlife isn't enough to reverse wider declines, so Warwickshire Wildlife Trust are changing the way they acquire new nature reserves. They will be prioritising land that currently has little value for wildlife, where they have the potential to make the biggest difference. By protecting and improving these places for nature, they will create space for wildlife where currently there is none. Thanks to 20 years of ecological surveys, they can see exactly where to focus their efforts to make the biggest difference and connect up existing nature reserves.

These are just some of the The Wildlife Trusts projects working towards 30 by 30. Follow the development of projects in Avon and get involved at [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/30-30](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/30-30)



#30by30



# WILD NEWS

All the latest regional and national news from The Wildlife Trusts



and surrounding rural areas, contributing to a vibrant Nature Recovery Network across our region. We need to ensure this land is managed in a sustainable way to encourage natural regeneration and help wildlife to survive and flourish throughout a mosaic of habitats. We want a bigger abundance of insects, plant and animal life in these areas. This will create healthy habitats that absorb carbon and reduce urban temperatures, building resilience to the effects of climate change.

## Pesticides


Reduce the use of pesticides by at least 50%. This means challenging their use at all levels and finding alternatives. We already have hundreds of people taking action against pesticide use in Avon through our Action for Insects campaign. We need to encourage more organisations, communities, local authorities and individuals to stop or reduce their pesticide use to help insect populations thrive.

## Pollution

100% of waterways to have water quality that supports healthy wildlife by 2030. This means reducing pollution contaminating water environments such as rivers. We want to work together on infrastructure that affects our waterways. Solutions include reducing the litter and water runoff from streets and pavements that enters our waterways.

## Our wider footprint

Help people and businesses to reduce consumption of products that undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems around the world. This means finding ways to help everyone better understand the impact of their actions. We want every business, community and individual to take responsibility for their ecological and carbon footprint, to reduce the region's impact on the natural environment.

 To find out more about this strategy and how we can all work together to achieve these targets visit: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/ecoemergency](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/ecoemergency)

## REGIONAL

# Making progress with the ecological emergency amid the pandemic

As the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns have continued, this time has proven that everyone deserves access to nature for their health and wellbeing. However, more people are becoming disconnected from the natural world because of the rapid decline of wildlife. Lockdowns have shown that if we give nature the chance, it can bounce back in abundance, and that is why our strategy for Bristol is more important than ever.

In September 2020, we launched the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy with Bristol City Council and other

partners across the city. This strategy proposes a radical transformation in the way we manage our urban landscapes and surrounding countryside, to halt and reverse declines in biodiversity and restore a healthy natural environment for people and wildlife. The strategy aims to achieve four ambitious goals over the next decade and we hope to extend it to other local authorities in Avon.

## Space for nature

Manage at least 30% of land for wildlife by 2030. This means finding new spaces for nature to thrive throughout the city





Connecting urban communities with nature across Bristol and Bath

## REGIONAL

# My Wild City

Our My Wild City project is transforming eight of Bristol's hidden green spaces into havens for wildlife, thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund and our partnership with Bristol City Council. After a hiatus due to the first lockdown, we have been busy over autumn and winter, carrying out vital restoration work to improve wildlife habitats and reconnecting with communities and local schools. Despite restrictions, we managed to hold successful family events and carry out ditch clearance to help Bristol's most endangered species, the water vole, at Lawrence Weston Moor, and pond restoration at Stockwood Open Space. We have also planned the installation of infrastructure to help people explore the wild and wonderful woodland at Dundry Slopes in Hartcliffe.

We are excited to launch illustrated maps of the sites, by illustrator Rebecca Howard, to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to discover their local wildlife sites.

For 2021, we have developed a creative programme of events. We will be creating species and habitat monitoring programmes which will contribute to a broader understanding of nature in our area, harnessing local expertise to deliver training to others. This develops local knowledge of species and ecology, helping people safeguard wildlife on their doorstep.

## Bathscape: Restoring, exploring, understanding Bath's landscape

Through an exciting collaboration with the Bathscape Landscape Partnership, we are taking action for nature and inspiring people to connect with wildlife on Bath's doorstep and in the surrounding countryside. Alongside the National Trust and Bath City Farm, we are bringing our land management and community engagement expertise to the area. Our vision is that Bath will be better recognised as a landscape city and that a wider range of people will actively enjoy it.

From running community volunteering events, developing a forest school area and running family activities, we have enjoyed seeing the positive benefits time outside can inspire. We are working with primary schools and piloting new outdoor learning materials.

It has been rewarding to see how our Natural Pathways project has connected people to nature to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Each winter we work with the Council's Parks department and the community to plant thousands of trees. This spring, we will be gathering yellow rattle and other wildflower seeds from local National Trust sites and sowing them in newly created meadow areas – perfect nectar-rich food sources for pollinators, bringing a wealth of wildlife back.



There are plenty of Bathscape volunteering opportunities and events. Find out more here: [bathscape.co.uk](http://bathscape.co.uk)

## Together we're stronger

Here are some of the ways your membership has been helping to protect your local wildlife

**Thanks to your support**, Bristol City Council, Bath & North East Somerset Council and North Somerset Council have all declared an **ecological emergency**, illustrating decisive action rippling through Avon.

More young people are taking action for local wildlife, with **654** people engaging with the **Our Bright Futures** programme since October. We helped **569** young people plant **489** wildflowers and **3,000** crocus bulbs as part of our Bulbtober initiative.

Despite multiple lockdowns, the Bathscape Partnership delivered **9** sessions with **49** volunteers, totalling **196** hours of work between July and December 2020.

Thank  
you!



## Transforming Grow Wilder

We are developing plans to create an engagement hub at Grow Wilder to allow more space to inspire people from the local community to take urgent action for the restoration of wildlife.

The new space will include an area for learning and conferences, a cafe and shop and make the site more accessible to all. See more about our plans and give your feedback about our proposals at [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/gw-engagement](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/gw-engagement)

If you are interested in helping fund this project, please contact Nicole at [Nicole.Squire@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Nicole.Squire@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)





Minke whales are seen regularly off our coasts each summer

UK UPDATE

## Sightings up during seaside staycation surge

### *Our 2020 Marine Review*

## Seaside Spotting

- More than 30 bottlenose dolphins were seen 'partying' off the Teeside coast
- Large numbers of Atlantic blue-fin tuna recorded along England's south coast
- Baby Risso's dolphin photographed off the coast of Anglesey, North Wales
- Humpback whale filmed off Yorkshire coast, which has become a hotspot for whale-watching



HUMPBACK WHALE TAIL FIN © GUDIKOV ANDREY/SHUTTERSTOCK; BREACHING MINKE WHALE © TOM MCDONNELL

The Wildlife Trusts' Living Seas teams are the eyes and ears of the UK coast, but this year their observations were joined by a surge in sightings from the public, as more people spent time around our coasts.

In this bumper year for sightings, highlights included the first orcas in Strangford Lough, Ulster, since the 1970s, and a rare 'run' of Atlantic bluefin tuna up the English Channel from Cornwall to Sussex. These impressive fish can weigh hundreds of kilograms and were sometimes joined by porpoises, minke whales and dolphins in a huge feeding frenzy.

Joan Edwards, The Wildlife Trusts' director of living seas, says: "In 2020 people flocked to the sea as soon as lockdown restrictions were lifted — they needed the coast like never before. Wildlife Trusts around the country were reporting a surge of public interest in marine life and coastal species — people delighted in seeing marine life and it lifted the hearts of millions in this most difficult year."

It wasn't all good news for wildlife however. Although more people were spotting sea life, the restrictions of 2020 meant a lot of scientific monitoring work had to be cancelled, including more than

100 Trust Shoresearch surveys. These vital surveys help map and monitor the wildlife around our coasts, and the lack of data as a result of their cancellation could make it harder to assess the health of many of these plants and animals.

Wildlife Trusts were also unable to run many of their beach cleaning projects, though they were superseded by the hugely increased efforts of individuals and smaller groups during 2020. Cornwall Wildlife Trust, for example, reported that those people living within walking distance of beaches still carried on cleaning right through the lockdown. Working to clean up our marine environment is essential, with marine wildlife in greater peril than ever from plastic, nurdles, litter, discarded fishing gear and now disposable Covid masks too.

Better news for wildlife included the successful reintroduction of sand lizards to Fylde sand dunes, Lancashire, making it the most northerly population in England, and the discovery of a previously un-recorded seagrass bed off Northern Ireland's Ards Peninsula.

Read the full marine review, with many more amazing stories from around our coasts, at [wildlifetrusts.org/marine-review-20](https://wildlifetrusts.org/marine-review-20)



**UK UPDATE**

# Wildlife Trusts welcome new president

Broadcaster and biologist, Liz Bonnin has been elected as president of The Wildlife Trusts. Liz will be championing The Wildlife Trusts' new 30 by 30 vision to protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030. Liz says, "It is a critical time for the natural world, and I hope that through lending my voice and support, and by working together, we can help to enforce the changes that must take place in order to secure a brighter future for our wild places."

Alongside Liz Bonnin's appointment, The Wildlife Trusts have also welcomed biologist and Springwatch presenter Gillian Burke as vice president, as well as four new ambassadors: environmentalist and birder, Mya-Rose Craig; actor and presenter, Cel Spellman; actor and



podcaster, David Oakes; and professor of biology and bumblebee expert, Dave Goulson.

## UK HIGHLIGHTS

Discover how The Wildlife Trusts are helping wildlife across the UK



### 1 A dam good job

Ulster Wildlife are using coconut fibre logs to create dams on Cuilcagh Mountain, re-wetting and restoring large areas of peatland. The boggy areas created will capture and store carbon, helping combat the climate crisis, and provide a better habitat for wildlife. This work, done in conjunction with local farmers, is part of a project to restore 16 hectares of degraded peatland on Cuilcagh.

### 2 Shark sanctuaries

Scottish Wildlife Trust welcomed the designation of a new suite of protected areas in Scottish seas. Four new Marine Protected Areas will help safeguard species like basking sharks and minke whales, alongside 12 new Special Protection Areas created to benefit Scotland's iconic seabirds. It is essential now that these areas are backed by effective management measures.



### 3 River restoration

Surrey Wildlife Trust are working with a wide range of partners to restore the natural course of the Rye Brook, near Ashted, helping to encourage brown trout upstream and capture flood waters. Riverbanks were reprofiled and natural bends and meanders were added, as well as a large riverside pond, to create more habitat for wildlife, including spawning areas for brown trout.



Neonicotinoids are a threat to bees and other pollinators

## Bad news for bees

The Wildlife Trusts are relieved that the Government will not be granting an emergency authorisation for the use of a banned neonicotinoid on sugar beet this year. The Government had previously agreed to authorise the use of the bee-killing pesticide thiamethoxam to combat a virus that affects sugar beet, but after an uncharacteristically cold January and February the levels of the virus were not high enough to meet the threshold for its use. While The Wildlife

Trusts are pleased that the Government will not be authorising use of this highly damaging chemical this year, this 'stay of execution' does not change the underlying issue – that the neonicotinoid could be allowed in the future, with potentially devastating impacts on UK wildlife.

To find out more, take a look at our Wild LIVE episode on the use of neonicotinoids [wildlifetrusts.org/wild-live](http://wildlifetrusts.org/wild-live)





## We bet you didn't know...

When children from the UK, Spain and Sweden were asked what they needed to be happy, the top three answers were time, friendship and the outdoors (UNICEF report, 2007).



**REGIONAL**

# Learning through the pandemic


Despite the pandemic, it was important that our Learning team could carry on inspiring the next generation to love and care about wildlife. Armed with a video camera, Zoom account and updated health & safety procedures, we were able to adapt much of our learning work.

Many of our activities moved online. We released regular My Wild Child videos for toddlers, thanks to players of the People's Postcode Lottery, and we ran Zoom workshops for schools & colleges. To help schools engage more with nature

and wildlife, we also released our first seasonal Nature Club packs. These resources, ideas and lesson plans provide inspiration for school clubs to improve their school grounds for wildlife and actively engage with nature in unique ways throughout the year.

When restrictions eased over the summer months, we restarted face-to-face sessions for schools and youth groups, including the Young Volunteer programme, National Lottery Community Fund. Together we cleared

overgrown footpaths, took part in moth and bird surveys, painted signs and even built a wormery. Our favourite day involved practical work at Folly Farm, a campfire dinner and finally sitting in silence watching the family of badgers emerge at dusk. Sharing their first badger sighting with our young volunteers was a very special moment!

 If you'd like to discuss how we can support your school or youth group, please contact us at [learning@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:learning@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

## Our Youth Forum are **passionate** and have **big** plans

The Avon Wildlife Trust Youth Forum is a group of enthusiastic young people aged 14–24 with a wide range of knowledge and fresh ideas about how to engage people with the environment. Here's what they have to say:



Created to give young people a voice, the Forum is committed to helping young people have the opportunity to

influence the environment for the better. We are becoming more involved in the Trust year on year, with staff joining our meetings and plans to speak with the board members soon.

Young people are passionate about having an impact – that's why so many young people protested for 'Fridays for Future' in Bristol on 27 September 2019, showing their drive to create a more sustainable world for our future livelihoods and families. We need to be included in environmental decision-making to feel secure in our futures and we want your support to use our passion and immense numbers to achieve this! Nature desperately needs



collaboration between ages, communities and perspectives. Like ecosystems that thrive with biodiversity, our wildlife conservation movement is sustainable when it is diverse. Together, in a movement that celebrates diverse leadership and amplifies underrepresented voices, we are connected, resilient and innovative. We are empowered to create inclusive solutions for wildlife, people and nature. But we still have a long way to go. To get there, we must understand that social justice is intrinsically linked to wildlife justice, because threats to wildlife and nature also threaten our species.

One idea at our core is rewilding, which aims to restore natural processes and reconnect people with their environment. For us, rewilding may often seem a distant concept for remote or rural places, but it can work at a smaller scale, too. In cities, the world's fastest growing habitat, rewilding may prove

decisive in bolstering both our urban wildlife and social wellbeing. City birding, campaigning for wildlife, taking a moment in a green space or building places for nature can all help in rewilding yourself and your surroundings.



To take action, you could contact your council, start volunteering, form a local project group and begin implementing measures on your patch. Frances Tophill's book *Rewild Your Garden* is a great place to start. The Youth Forum has big plans for 2021 and we want to take the Forum to the next level.





# MY WILD LIFE

Thank you

to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, who have helped us build a project that is meaningful and impactful. And thank you to the Natural Academy team for training and guiding our staff to co-develop this project.

## Kelly Bray

Kelly is the Wellbeing Manager at Avon Wildlife Trust, working to connect people with nature to positively influence their health and wellbeing.



I joined the Trust in 2009 and have worked on community projects with a diverse range of people, including those in areas with higher levels of deprivation, people with learning disabilities, people experiencing mental ill health or those with long-term health conditions. Whatever their age or background, everyone has the right to be who they are and experience nature. That is what is so special about my work, and nature itself. Nature is for everyone.

Over twelve years at the Trust I have worked on three major projects: People and Wildlife, Communities and Nature and the project I want to celebrate today, Wellbeing with Nature. Wellbeing with Nature is exactly what it says. Not 'through' nature, not 'in' nature, not 'using' nature for our benefit alone, but 'with' nature! A reciprocal approach that has positive outcomes for people's wellbeing and a clear positive impact on the environment. Connecting to nature is fundamental to our health and wellbeing and our ability to adopt positive environmental behaviours, and is often experienced through our senses, feelings, meaning, reflections, beauty and inspiration. To practice this, we used the

University of Derby's 5 Pathways to Nature approach.

Our self-care courses brought together wellbeing interventions, such as nature-based mindfulness practices and reflecting on emotional awareness, motivation and purposeful activities. This gave participants the tools to resource and manage their health and achieve greater wellbeing. At the same time, providing meaningful wildlife-related activities allowed them to be part of a group, exercise at their own pace and gain a sense of belonging and achievement. This helped them work towards positive behavioural changes to self-care and greater care of our natural environment.

The impact on people was clear: they responded more rapidly and positively than I had previously experienced over my whole career.

The last year has been challenging. The climate and ecological emergencies continue to escalate and show that the human-nature relationship is not working. The pandemic and lockdowns have seen our mental health worsening, but more positively this experience has also led people to appreciate the difference that nature makes to our lives. I feel fortunate that I was brought up in the countryside

where I would spend weekends playing in the woods, making dens, camping out and cooking on the fire. My connection to nature has always been strong. After reading this I urge you to look out of the window and notice what you see.

There is an increased awareness of the link between our own health and that of the planet. This awareness is something I have been striving for, so I am overjoyed that in December 2020 our local NHS provider was one of seven areas in the UK to be awarded funding from the Government to pilot a system-wide approach to green prescribing. This is a great accolade for the whole environment sector, for me personally and for Avon Wildlife Trust, who have been chosen to work alongside the NHS provider in the pilot. As a collaborative partnership project facilitated by the West of England Nature Partnership, I look forward to working with the NHS and sharing my experiences and learning. If we can all work collectively, people and wildlife can recover and thrive together.



To find out more about what our Wellbeing with Nature project has achieved visit: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/wellbeing-with-nature](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/wellbeing-with-nature)



# WHAT'S ON

For up-to-date event listings and to book, visit our website  
[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

## SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS

Take your pick from this small selection of seasonal activities, events and online opportunities. We will be reviewing our events on a rolling basis to make sure we can run them safely, so do keep an eye on our website.

### Grow Wilder

From April, our café will be open on Saturday and Sundays alongside our wildflower nursery. We have plans for the first Saturday of the month to be a special activity day and to hold a couple of seasonal events throughout the spring and summer.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/growwilder](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/growwilder)

### My Wild Child sessions for families with toddlers

Weekly outdoor child-led play sessions for families with under-fives, exploring different sites around Bristol and learning about nature and wildlife. Booking essential, limited places.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildchild](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildchild)

### Wildlife Watch Club for 5–10 year olds

These sessions are hosted at Grow Wilder, on the first Saturday of every month. From the habits of our feathered friends, learning about insects, to the wonders of pond life, this nature club is perfect for the budding nature-lover. Booking essential, limited places.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlifewatch](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlifewatch)



BARBARA EVRIPIDOU

### Our Bright Future online volunteering

On the first Tuesday of every month, we will be talking about all things wildlife as well as sharing ideas on how you can engage more with nature. We also hope to be able to offer practical experience at our always inspiring Grow Wilder site the following Saturday.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/OBFvolunteer](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/OBFvolunteer)

### 30 Days Wild

Start your day the wild way on Tuesday 1 June with butterflies, bagels, worms, waffles, toads and toast for the UK's biggest nature challenge – 30 Days Wild! The Wildlife Trusts invite the nation to join the Big Wild Breakfast, a new, outdoor, celebration to kickstart the UK's most popular nature extravaganza.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/30dayswild](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/30dayswild)

### My Wild City

Throughout this spring and summer, we have great plans for our My Wild City project with self-led trails, foraging sessions, art and nature days and bike and hike nature events. We also have a Campfire Club session with the Nest Collective at the Northern Slopes on Wednesday 28 July. Keep an eye on our webpage for updates as restrictions ease.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildcity](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildcity)

### Mindfulness and Weaving Workshop at Grow Wilder

July 17 10am-4pm

Spend a day at our beautiful Grow Wilder site and learn how to use a peg loom and natural sheep fleece to weave yourself a sit mat to take home.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)



NICK TURNER

### Nature Journaling online course

April 30 1pm-3pm

Learn how to create and keep your own illustrated nature journal on this short interactive online course with local artist and journalist Jules Woolford.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

### ONLINE WILDLIFE COURSES

#### UK Tree Identification (spring/summer), Summer Wildflowers, Intro to Butterflies

May 10 6pm-8pm, June 7 6pm-8pm, July 5 6pm-8pm

Join us for interactive online learning courses to discover the secrets of tree identification in spring and summer, how to identify summer flowering species of wildflower, particularly those found in meadows and urbanised environments, and learn general identification techniques for both common and rare butterfly species found in the UK.

Find out more:

[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

### TOP PICK

## 40th birthday celebrations



As we did not get to celebrate last year, we are planning a series of events and activities to celebrate the 40th birthday of Avon Wildlife Trust throughout 2021 – and we want as many of you as possible to get involved. Keep up to date with plans as they develop at [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/40thbirthday](https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/40thbirthday)



# STAY *connected* TO *your* PATCH



Our local groups and volunteering sessions offer a valuable opportunity to help wildlife in your local area, while connecting with others who also have a passion for nature and wildlife. While we normally have a whole list of events for you to join, we are still recovering from the pandemic so we are bringing you some highlights from our local groups instead.

## Keynsham Local Group

Keynsham Group were determined to continue with some sort of programme right from the start of the first lockdown. Initially, they were prevented from hosting their normal field trips although some went ahead as individuals, such as a solo Dawn Chorus through Stockwood Vale, and a 'through the seasons guide' in Keynsham Park. From September, they started socially-distanced walks, including Keynsham to Willsbridge Valley, Lord's Wood near Compton Dando and Elm Farm in Burnett.

Donations from Hanham Women's Institution and Waitrose's green token scheme helped them start a swift nesting box programme. Thirteen 3- and 4-compartment boxes have now been installed in Keynsham and Saltford prior to the return of the birds from Africa. We hope that in years to come these will be filled with breeding swifts.

The biggest success of the year has been their online talk program which started in October and continues until May this year, with audiences growing every month and some fabulous speakers. Last autumn, Keynsham Group hosted Paul Williams, who spoke about the trials of being a BBC Wildlife producer, Julian Sykes, wildlife guide for Lynx and Lammergeiers in Spain, and the amazing Simon Pugh-Jones from Mendip Studio School showing attendees around his fabulous orchid greenhouses on Zoom. In 2021, the group has already walked remotely around Newton St Loe with Robert Hargreaves and taken a trip along the Dorset Coast with Ed Drewitt, explored the Forest of Dean Pine Marten project with Dr Cat McNicol and returned animals to the wild with local Keynsham boy Jamie Kingscott, who works as release co-ordinator at Secret World Wildlife Rescue.

You can find links to Keynsham Group's talks on our website as well as their own new website: [keynshamawt.org](http://keynshamawt.org) or [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)

**Friday 21 May 'St Kilda and the Hebrides – cruising to the edge of the world'** with wildlife guide Sara Frost. The autumn programme is already filling up, as the group hopes to be able to meet in person. Diary date, **'Conservation of British Owls'** with Ian McGuire on **Friday 8 October**.

*The Keynsham Group continues continue working to support Avon Wildlife Trust despite the difficulties and have managed to raise over £1500 during the year!*

For more information about Keynsham Group and its activities, please email [keynshamawt@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamawt@gmail.com), phone Kathy on **07850 508702** or follow the group on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter [@KeynshamAvonWT](https://www.instagram.com/KeynshamAvonWT).

## The end of an era!

Cynthia Wilson, a key member of Keynsham Group, sadly decided to retire from the committee after nearly 20 years of dedicated and loyal support.

Cynthia's astonishing energy, enthusiasm and wealth of new ideas were evident right from the start, as she galvanised the group to new levels of working. Before long she became Minutes, Field Outings and Speakers Secretary. Throughout the years she has remained positive and has maintained that infectious enthusiasm. We thank you, Cynthia, for everything you have done to promote Keynsham Group's knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of wildlife. The group is eternally grateful for your outstanding contributions.




## Volunteering!

Volunteering on conservation projects is a great way to make a real difference to wildlife, to get fit and healthy and to meet some wonderful people.

There are usually plenty of volunteering opportunities at Avon Wildlife Trust, but due to coronavirus we have been reviewing our events on a monthly basis. With our teams back from furlough, we are working hard to put plans together so that we can run these again safely or bring opportunities online. To learn about opportunities to get involved, sign up to receive our volunteer newsletter: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteernews](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteernews), or find out more on our events page: [avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/events)



 If you'd like to find out more about our local groups, get in touch:

**Chew Valley**  
Andy Davis: 01275 332 601

**Gordano Valley**  
Sarah Kennedy: 01275 817 565/  
07853 248 476

**Keynsham**  
Kathy Farrell: 07850 508 702

**Portishead**  
Cynthia Dorn: 01275 843 160

**Southwold**  
Tim Fairhead: 01454 323 608



# Companion planting

Feed yourself and your local wildlife with these tips from **Kate Bradbury**.

## **Nasturtium**

*Tropaeolum majus*

Nasturtiums can lure aphids from beans and egg-laying butterflies from brassicas. You can also transfer white butterfly caterpillars on to nasturtiums from your cabbages and kales. Their flowers attract bumblebees, the main pollinator of tomatoes.

## **Thyme**

*Thymus vulgaris*

This low-growing herb can deter blackfly from broad beans and roses. You can also make a tea from its leaves and spray it on brassicas to prevent whitefly.

## **Beans**

*Fabaceae*

Brassicas and salad crops need nitrogen-rich soil to grow well. Plant them alongside beans, whose roots fix nitrogen into the soil.

## **Mint**

*Mentha spicata*

Its strongly scented leaves deter insects with a taste for carrots, onions and brassicas, including flea beetle. Best grown in a pot as it can grow out of control in open ground.

## **Marigold**

*Calendula officinalis*

Its leaves repel whitefly from tomatoes and can lure aphids from beans. Its flowers attract pollinators as well as aphid predators like ladybirds, lacewings and hoverflies. Its roots work with soil fungi to deliver more nutrients to other plants.




Companion planting is an age-old tradition of organic gardening, designed to help plants grow better, aid pollination, deter insects from munching your crops and encourage the predators that eat them. It basically involves the planting of wildflowers or other crops alongside your main crop — think of them as little friends or guardians, there to keep your plants happy and safe.

Most companion plants are strongly scented and therefore can deter insects in search of their host plant. Others attract more beneficial insects, such as ladybirds and lacewings, which then prey on aphids and other crop eaters. Some companion plants are 'sacrificial', meaning you grow them so that insects lay eggs on them instead of your prized crop. Others can benefit the soil, such as nitrogen-fixing legumes, which help leafy plants grow better, or calendula, whose roots work particularly well with soil fungi, which aid the uptake of soil nutrients. All of this helps you work in harmony with nature, protect your crops and help them grow better. What's not to like?

On my allotment I grow calendula with tomatoes, onions and garlic with carrots and parsnips, and nasturtiums with beans and brassica crops. I also grow nettles, fennel, teasels and other wildflowers

along my allotment boundaries. These are fantastic wildlife plants, and so bring in a range of insects and birds. Nettles give me a head start on other allotmenters: coming into leaf early in the year, nettles attract the nettle aphid, *Microlophium carnosum*. This feeds only on nettles and emerges from hibernation sooner than other species, so attracts aphid predators — such as ladybirds, hoverflies and lacewings — early in the year. This means the predators are already on hand when the blackbean aphid starts breeding on my broad beans. Then in summer, fennel flowers attract hoverflies, which then lay eggs on aphid clusters — I rarely have a problem with aphids. Other wildflowers attract pollinating bees, which stay to fertilise my bean and tomato flowers. I also like to grow caterpillar foodplants for moths and butterflies because they're nice to have around. I like to think of them as my companions, so companion planting can benefit the gardener, too!

Gardens and allotments are a vital habitat for many of our struggling insects. Get tips for helping them at:

 [wildlifetrusts.org/take-action-insects](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/take-action-insects)



**Kate Bradbury** is passionate about wildlife-friendly gardening and the author of *Wildlife Gardening for Everyone and Everything* in association with The Wildlife Trusts.

ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH BAILEY, PHOTO © SARAH CUTTLE

### Garlic chive

*Allium tuberosum*

The garlicky scent from its chive-like leaves deters the carrot root fly, which can usually smell carrots from up to a mile away.

### Borage

*Borago officinalis*

Its nectar-rich flowers attract bees, butterflies and hoverflies, which pollinate crops. It is also reported to improve the flavour of strawberries.

### Lavender

*Lavandula angustifolia*

Its strong-scented foliage can deter aphids and its flowers attract a range of pollinators, including bees. Plant with carrots and leeks to protect them.



# Help secure **30%** of land for **wildlife** by **2030**

*We urgently need your help to create more space for nature across Avon to help wildlife thrive while locking up carbon in the landscape and making it easier for everyone in our area to access wildlife-friendly spaces.*

**Ian Barrett**, Chief Executive,  
Avon Wildlife Trust

Do you have land to give or do you know about available land that could contribute to our Nature Recovery Network and help secure **30%** of land and sea for local **wildlife** by **2030**?

By helping us secure land, together we can fight for a future where wildlife and people thrive alongside each other in a healthy habitat. If you can help by contributing valuable land to this vision, please get in touch.

Find out more and let us know here:  
**[avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/gift-land](https://avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/gift-land)**