

Kingfisher



Sheffield &
Rotherham





The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham

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Volunteers

Working to make Sheffield a better place for people and wildlife takes money, time and goodwill. We are totally dependent on our members, funders, partners, and volunteers. A big thank you to all our volunteers who have helped us out over the last few months:

Mohammed Abdo, Charlotte Abel, Nick Blood, Dawn Bond, Michael Bond, Stuart Bown, Stephen Bradley, Kelly Brindley, Roger Brooks, Alex Bryant, Chris Carter, Ann Clegg, Harry Corbey, Louise Cordell, Lucy Davies, Simon Doxford, Timothy Draper, Matthew Duffy, Debbie Evans, Vicki Froggatt, Philippa Gullett, Ross Hanson, Charmian Cochrane Hay, Dave Higgins, Sarah Jaggard, Craig Johnson, Jessica Judson, Cheryl Kelsall, Sadaf Khan, Rachel Mallichan, Daniel Marston, Pete Mella, Shaun Morgan, Kevin Overton, Valeria Pico, Darren Raynes, Julie Riley, Matt Shaw, Sarah Sidgwick, Chris Smith, Matthew Smith, Dawn Sockett, Rachel Stevenson, Claire Taylor, Mike Timmons, Chris Tremblett, Donna Tubridy, Dee Wade, Alison Somerset Ward, Brendon Wittram

...and thanks, most importantly, to all our members.

Trustees

Patrick Vaughan, Margaret Spencer, Roderick Lees, Nigel Dunnett, Ann Clegg, Mike Allen, Penny Simpson, Richard Pethen, Anne Ashe, Pete Quinn, Colette Harvey, Greg Whitmore, Philip Warren

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Horsetails by Roger Redfern **back page**

Editor's comment

Welcome to the 76th issue of Kingfisher. In this issue you'll find a two page spread of varied and exciting events, plus news and updates about many of our projects and programmes, including Don Heritage for young people (p.6), Burngreave's hidden gems (p.4), and East Peak for young people (p.7). There is also a reminder about our AGM in September, which will, as always, be preceded by a fascinating talk by a keynote speaker – this year, leading phenologist Tim Sparks. Not sure what phenology is? Turn to page 7 for a short summary, and then turn up on the night to find out more.

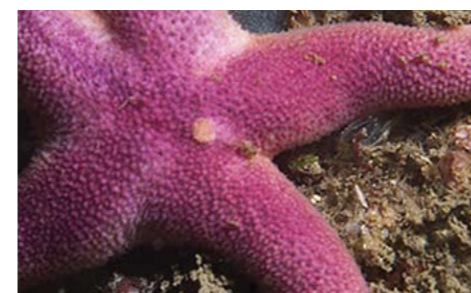
In this issue you'll also find out more about our Living Seas campaign and why the Petition Fish have returned. We have five Petition Fish here at the Trust, just waiting to be covered in signed scales. And on the subject of water, if your garden is finding the hot summer weather too much to bear, you'll find dry weather gardening tips on page 11.

In the last issue I mentioned the fact that government cuts have had a serious impact on the Trust. Since then we have lost several members of staff. Despite this, we are working harder than ever to fulfil our aim to create a Living Landscape for people and wildlife. With new projects just starting and more on the horizon, we're very much looking to the future. The support of our members is crucial at this time; thank you so much to the many of you who have decided to increase your donations, and also to those who have decided to stay with us despite the squeeze on your own finances.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Kingfisher. If you have any comments or suggestions for future issues, you are welcome to write to the Editor at the Trust's postal address, or via email: mail@wildsheffield.com, with 'Kingfisher' in the subject line.

As ever, we value your support and feedback.

Laura Boyles, Editor



Burngreave's hidden gems

The Burngreave's hidden gems project is now underway at Crabtree Ponds nature reserve, engaging the local community and enhancing the area for wildlife. A small but exciting project, it incorporates several other green spaces and woodlands around Burngreave, helping to sustain this 'Living Landscape'.

Supported by Friends of Osgathorpe Park, Little Roe Woods, and Sheffield City Council, the project aims to bring the community together through events and practical work days in their local area.

Community Wildlife Big Lottery Fund have generously provided £9,975 which is being used to run a series of events, practical workdays and workshops. So far these have included guided bird walks, bird box making sessions and art workshops with a local youth group. More events are planned throughout the summer, including guided bat walks, education sessions and a community work day to replace some steps at Crabtree Ponds.

Sarah Sidgwick, assistant nature reserve volunteer said of the project, *"the Burngreave's hidden gems project has been a great way for us to engage the local community in Crabtree Ponds and other woodlands and parks nearby; we've had great fun building and installing bird boxes, and still have more to look forward to!"*



Sheffield half marathon



The SIG Insulations Sheffield Half Marathon is one of the biggest participation events in Sheffield's sporting calendar, and attracted over 4,500 runners.

We would like to say a big thank you to all those people who ran for the Wildlife Trust and helped us raise over £5000.

Half marathon runners

Abby Wood, Adrienn Angyal, Annie Russell, Christopher Griffiths, Ellie Price, Emily Mitchell, Hadley Kreeger, Jamie Ellingford, Jan Breider, Johanna Eklund, Jonathan Turner, Jonathan Windle, Josh Brewster, Josh Turner, Ken Coker, Matthew Duffy, Nick Covarr, Richard Pethen, Robert Mee, Sarah Thornton, Tom Holden, Wing-ye Lau, Zak Green

3K 'fun runners'

Andrew and Joe McNiven, Liz and Wilfred Dingle.

EPIP update

The East Peak for young people project funded by the East Peak Innovation Partnership is in full swing with over 1300 young people aged 11-16 having their say on how they feel about their local green spaces, and 90 young people involved in long term environmental projects. Activities so far have included creating minibeast totem poles, chequer board kitchen gardens, navigating the peak district, breeze block carving and giant willow sculptures.

This month Lepton Youth Forum are helping to raise money by building and selling bird boxes to help them build a path to improve access to their local park. We'll be getting the diggers and dumpers out to move 40 tonnes of soil and compacting it with hardcore and the young people are raring to get involved. Let's hope they have strong arm muscles!

In Penistone young people are working to win back their green space which is currently being used

for anti social behaviour. By pruning the trees and replanting the borders to open up the paths we hope discourage the users who wish to hide, and make the area feel safer.

To keep updated on the young people's projects follow us on Facebook, (envolve at Sheffield WT).



Emily Mockford to run three races to raise money for the Sheffield Wildlife Trust

Emily Mockford, from Sheffield, has decided to take up a summer of marathon running to raise vital funds for the Trust's Greno Woods Appeal.

Millie will start her ambitious campaign with a ten kilometre race in Thame, Oxfordshire on the 26th June, followed by a half marathon in the Yorkshire Wolds on 16th July and finally the Royal Parks Half Marathon in London on 9th October.

Everyone at the Trust would like to thank Millie and wish her the very best of luck.

Donations towards Millie's campaign can be made at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/EmilyMockford>

Don Heritage for young people



Thanks to a grant of £24,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund Young Roots programme, en:volve at Sheffield Wildlife Trust are running an exciting project encouraging young people to discover and explore the natural, cultural and industrial heritage of the River Don. Young Roots is a programme designed to engage young people aged 13- 25 with their heritage. The projects stem directly from the interests and ideas of young people, who are supported by youth and heritage organisations to develop skills, build confidence, and connect with their local communities.

The Trust's en:volve team have been working with the Junior Winn Tenants and Residents Association, who inspired the project, and students from Heritage Park

Community School, to run practical conservation sessions, guided walks and bike rides looking at the natural and industrial heritage centred around the Winn Garden area and lower Don. As well as learning how to fish sustainably and check for fresh water indicators, the groups have been learning about wildlife photography and practical conservation skills and have been on guided walks with the Upper Don Walk Trust hearing about Sheffield's fascinating industrial steel history. Other organisations involved include the Five Weirs Walk, River Stewardship Company, and S.P.R.I.T.E

Fiona Spiers – Head of Heritage Lottery Fund, Yorkshire and the Humber said "This is a great project

that will allow young people to learn about the industrial and natural heritage of the River Don in an exciting and hands on way. The project will allow people to discover the impact the river has had on the surrounding communities."

The groups are also going to make their own film using interviews with people about their relationship with the Don to help promote the different aspects of the river's heritage.

For more information or to get involved please contact Hannah at h.wittram@wildsheffield.com



Joan Hoare

It was with great sadness that we have learned of the death of Joan Hoare. She had been diagnosed with cancer six months ago, and died on 10th June 2011. Joan was a longstanding supporter of Sheffield Wildlife Trust: she joined as a member 11 years ago, and for a time worked as a volunteer ranger at the Wyming Brook reserve. In 2003 she became a Trustee, and served on the Board of Trustees for six years. She was the Board's representative on the child protection specialist group (which monitors the Trust's child protection procedures).



Joan had a great love of the outdoors, and with her husband Richard would be out walking in Sheffield's wild hinterland whenever possible. She could wax lyrical in poetry about particular landscapes which she enjoyed. For several years she had been studying for an MA in Creative Writing at Sheffield Hallam University, and she succeeded very recently in submitting her final dissertation for it. A volume of her poetry entitled *Equal Viewing* is currently in press, and her husband has kindly selected one of her poems for us to print here.

Joan supported the Trust not only through her volunteering, but also in financial terms. Twice over recent years she and her husband have given substantial donations to the Trust; she has also remembered the Trust with a generous legacy in her will. We are grateful for this token of her lifelong devotion to wildlife.

Patrick Vaughan, Chair, Board of Trustees

Copies of *Equal Viewing* may be obtained from Richard Hoare (266 6605).

Padley Gorge

*Frosted slates blue on the roofs of Broomhill.
Weathered with a century's soot, sandstone
walls suck in the sun.
My breath drifts warm on the wintry air.*

*I get out binoculars, bird book, boots already
creased with mud.
Time for the white tumble of water
over gritstone,
a soft soul roaring.*

*I walk down a stony path holding to the hillside,
hoary with banked up boulders and gnarled
oak trees.*

*Glaciers have gouged the valley, scoured the
rocks jagged,
as if the ice had melted only yesterday;
My nose seeks the reek of hunters,
trailing bison, bear and auroch.*

*I'm after spring migrants, pied flycatchers,
on the woodland edge of pine and twisted oak,
unmistakeable.*

*There! An aerial sortie snaps up a fly,
then a circular return to its perch.*

*Staying at home is cosy;
familiar wallpaper in a teatime room,
the cat purring on my lap,
mindfully kneading my skirt, not unsheathing
his claws.*

*But outside there's the snap of the catch,
the ice-cap melt.*

New corporate members

A taste of the wild

PJ taste specialise in championing food from our local region; so they form a natural partnership with the Wildlife Trust. Having provided food and drink for the Wildlife Trust at many events, both indoors and outdoors, PJ taste recently became one of the Trust's newest corporate members.

Peter Moulam from PJ taste said: "It's exciting to be able to support Sheffield Wildlife Trust in their mission to protect the local environment, having personally gained so much from outdoor spaces. From childhood memories of climbing on the gritstone moors and visiting Wyming Brook, to picking bilberries on Blacka Moor and exploring the Moss Valley, I continue to be enthralled by the diverse habitats on our doorstep."

For more information about PJ taste visit www.pjtaste.co.uk or pop into their coffee shop at 249 Glossop Road.



PJ taste staff receiving their Corporate Members Certificate from Cathy Slater of the Sheffield Wildlife Trust | to r: Becki Arnott, Matilda Moulam, Peter Moulam, Cathy Slater, Mat Webster.

Low Ash Riding School

The Dream Makers group at the Low Ash Riding School organised a ride to music, a strawberry tea and a pie 'n' peas night to raise nearly £2,000 for the Wildlife Trust.

"Every year we choose a different charity to raise funds for and this year we wanted something with a link to animals and the countryside. The Wildlife Trust fits the bill perfectly" said Dream Maker organiser Linda Webster.

The group were particularly pleased to be able to support Wildlife Trust projects which help to engage young people with wildlife and the natural environment.

The Low Ash Riding School is now a corporate member.

To find out more about the benefits of becoming a corporate member, ring Cathy Slater on 0114 2634335 or email c.slater@wildsheffield.com

AGM 2011

This year our annual general meeting (AGM) will be held on the evening of 29th September at our headquarters on Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF.

Before the meeting there will be a talk by Tim Sparks on the fascinating subject of phenology, which everyone is welcome to attend.

The AGM, for members only, will be held at 8 pm.

Please book your place on the talk, and/or let us know you will be attending by ringing us on 0114 263 4335, or email mail@wildsheffield.com.

Please also inform us of any Items of Business you feel should be on the agenda by using the above contacts.

Don't miss your opportunity to influence the Trust's work and help decide who will be on the Board of Trustees for the coming year.

AGM 2011 Programme

6pm: Tea and coffee
6.30pm: Keynote speaker, Tim Sparks
7.30pm: Buffet refreshments
8pm: AGM business
9.30pm: End

Keynote Speaker: Tim Sparks, on phenology.

(Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and interannual variations in climate.) Tim Sparks developed a research programme in climate impacts, particularly phenology, and was responsible for establishing the new UK Phenology Network in 1998.

He says of his talk: "Phenology is now acknowledged as a key source of information on the impacts of climate change; indeed it forms the bulk of evidence for impacts on native species reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Globally, such data are largely collected by amateurs. In this talk I will discuss the role of the amateur in the recording of phenology and introduce some outstanding examples of their work."

GET INVOLVED

Conservation work days



Regular volunteer days take place on several of our nature reserves, both during the week and at weekends. Tasks vary from footpath improvements and access work, to habitat and vegetation management. Please wear warm clothes and sturdy footwear, and bring a packed lunch – tea, biscuits, tools and gloves are provided. All volunteer days start at 10am and finish at 3pm; come along for the whole day or just join us for an hour, all extra hands are welcome. Please see below for details.

Volunteer days

Second Monday of the month Centenary Riverside

Meet at: Centenary Riverside Nature Park, Riverside Way, off the A6178 Rotherham, grid reference SK 422 922.

First Tuesday and third Sunday bi-monthly (July, September...) Wyming Brook/Fox Hagg

Meet at: either Fox Hagg car park on Lodge Lane (SK 290 866), or Wyming Brook car park on Redmires Road (SK 269 858). The meeting point varies between volunteer days, so please contact Hannah Wittram before the event for confirmation of where to meet at.

First Saturday and third Thursday of the month (Thursdays starting in August)

Blacka Moor

Meet at: Stony Ridge car park, A625 Hathersage Road, grid reference SK 278 806.

Fourth Friday of the month Greno Woods

Meet at: Forestry Commission car park on Woodhead Road, between Wharncliffe Woods and Greno Woods, grid reference SK 325 950.

Wildlife on your doorstep!

Sheffield Wildlife Trust runs a whole host of events across Sheffield and Rotherham, aimed at helping everyone get the most out of their local environment. Please be aware you may need to book in advance for our most popular events, and there may be a suggested minimum donation which will help us cover the cost of running the event.

- Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, bearing in mind that weather is unpredictable, especially on the larger nature reserves inside the Peak District.
- Please make sure your children are accompanied by an adult, as we are not able to take responsibility for them at events.

Sunday 24th July, 11am – 1pm Weirs and waterways River Don

Take a walk into the past with the Five Weirs Walk Trust and hear all about the tales of the waterways. Join us for a stroll down by the riverside, followed by a picnic in Salmon Pastures Nature Reserve. This is a joint event with the Junior Winn TARA.

Meet at: Lady's Bridge, at the bottom of Castle Market and towards the Wicker.



Thursday 4th August, 1pm – 3pm Science head Crabtree Ponds Nature Reserve

Just a dirty pond or a secret haven for wildlife? Bring the family and join us for an afternoon of detective work at Crabtree Ponds to see if you can identify what's lurking in the pond. We'll provide the pond nets and science kits – all you need is your science head!

Meet at: Crabtree Close entrance, off Barnsley Road. (SK 363 898), S5 7AQ

Thursday 11th August, 8.15pm – 10pm

Bats about town Crabtree Ponds Nature Reserve

Come and experience some of Burngreave's hidden gems – we'll be exploring Crabtree Ponds, Little Roe Woods and surrounding areas on the trail of some of our more secretive night-time residents, including pipistrelle, Daubenton's, and Leisler's bats. **This is a bookable event, so please contact Hannah Wittram to book your place by 10th August.**

Meet at: Crabtree Close entrance, off Barnsley Road

Sunday 14th August, 11am – 2pm Pedal for wildlife River Don

Get your pedals ready, hop on your bike and join us on a leisurely Sunday cycle along the canal to visit Blackburn Meadows and Centenary Riverside Nature Park. We'll be keeping a look out for interesting wildlife along the way, and stopping for a lunchtime picnic on one of the reserves. This circular bike ride will start and finish at Meadowhall Shopping Centre.

Please bring a bike, helmet and picnic. If you don't own a bike, please get in touch and we may be able to borrow one for you; there are a limited number of bikes available for borrowing, so don't delay! **This is a bookable event, so please contact Hannah Wittram to book your place by 10th August.** Suggested minimum donation of £3.

Meet at: Meadowhall Tram Stop.

Friday 19th August, 12 – 2pm Poppies and picnics Centenary Riverside Nature Park

Don't spend this summertime Friday having lunch at your desk – come and join us for a picnic and guided walk around a beautiful nature park. Get out of the office for half an hour and hear all about the wildflowers and wildlife flourishing in the park. Don't forget your sandwiches!

Meet at: Centenary Riverside Nature Park, Riverside Way, off the A6178 Rotherham, grid reference SK 422 922.

Wednesday 31st August, 11am – 2pm

Blow your socks off! Sunnybank Nature Reserve

Are you a fan of horseradish with your Sunday roast? Come along and forage for it in our mini meadow, where we have an overabundance! Not only will you be helping the wildflowers in the meadow to flourish by removing some of horseradish, but you can also try your hand at making your own sauce. Don't forget to bring your picnic!

Meet at: The pond, Sunnybank Nature Reserve, off Broomhall Close (SK 344 864).

- Many nature reserves have uneven or steep terrain, and may not be suitable for wheelchair or pushchair users. Please check beforehand.
- Most events can be reached by public transport and are arranged around bus times. For public transport information call Travel Line on 01709 515151.
- Photographs may be taken by Trust staff at events and used for publicity purposes. Please speak to a member of staff if you are unhappy about having your photo taken.

Unless otherwise specified, please contact our Reserves Team on 0114 2634335 for further information or to book a place.



Friday 2nd September, 7.30pm – 9.30pm Batty about the Don River Don

Join the Sheffield Wildlife Trust and Blue Loop River Stewards for a night-time stroll along the River Don, to spot these mysterious creatures of the night. We will provide bat detectors and drinks, please bring a torch.

Meet at: Victoria Quays, outside A&G Passenger Boats.

Monday 5th September, 10am – 3pm Hop to it! (frog rescue) Sunnybank Nature Reserve

The meadows of this small but perfectly formed nature reserve are cut each year as a hay meadow; however, it's right next to a pond so the meadows are teeming with frogs which need rescuing before the cut!

Meet at: The pond, Sunnybank Nature Reserve, off Broomhall Close (SK 344 864).



Thursday 8th September, 10am – 3pm Shake a rake Sunnybank Nature Reserve

Shake a rake, or shake a leg! Following the frog rescue and meadow cut earlier in the week, come and help us with a little meadow management to finish the job. Good exercise and good fun, we'll be moving all the cut grass to the compost bins, in order to allow the wildflower meadow to flourish next spring.

Meet at: The pond, Sunnybank Nature Reserve, off Broomhall Close (SK 344 864).



Thursday 27th October, 1pm – 3pm Willow fish and twizzling eels Crabtree Ponds Nature Reserve

Try something new this half-term holiday, and join us at Crabtree Ponds for an afternoon of creating willow sculptures. See what inspiration you can draw from the wildlife here, it could be a fish, a snail, or even one of the mysterious eels weaving their way around the pond! We've got plenty of willow that you can bend and twist to make your creature, so pop down and give it a go.

Meet at: The pond, Crabtree Close, off Barnsley Road.

A number of these events are funded by Young Roots Heritage Lottery Fund and Community Wildlife Big Lottery Fund.



SPECIAL MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS

Saturday 23rd July 2011, 11am to 2.30pm

ALL OF A FLUTTER AT GRENO WOODS

Butterfly Conservation and Marks and Spencer have teamed up for 'the big butterfly count' in July and The Wildlife Trust is getting all of a flutter. Join us for this very special members only event

- Learn how to identify all our local butterflies with our butterfly expert (with a free ID chart to take home)
- Find eggs and caterpillars and learn about their remarkable life history
- Take part in 'the big butterfly count'
- Children can make their own butterfly or caterpillar to take home
- Win free family tickets to Sheffield's Tropical Butterfly House and Falconry Centre in Anston (<http://www.butterflyhouse.co.uk/>)
- Enjoy our free 'butterfly cakes'

This is a bookable event. Please contact us on 0114 2634335 or b.keyword@wildsheffield.com to book your place. Please ensure you book before 21st July

Saturday 17th September 2011 11am to 2.30pm FOREST FOODS AND SCAVENGER HUNT AT BLACKA MOOR

Find out what's edible and what's not on this members only event at Blacka Moor.

- Find fruits and berries and learn how to tell a yummy mushroom from a yucky toadstool without getting poisoned!
- Find medicinal plants and surprising salads from wild flowers
- Forest forage activities for kids
- Find out what your ancestors would have eaten and how they survived in the woods

This is a bookable event. Please contact us on 0114 2634335 or b.keyword@wildsheffield.com to book your place. Please ensure you book before 10th September.

Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of the Wildlife Trusts and the local wildlife club for young people who care about their environment and want to have fun outdoors.

Registered volunteer leaders organise monthly outdoor activities like pond dipping, minibeast safaris, tracks and signs, wild food forages and natural sculptures for children aged 8 to 13. We also have a young people's group for 13-16 year olds based at Stafford Road. Some groups are open to children from age five. Each group meets for approximately two hours per month.

We have seven groups across Sheffield. Children under eight must be accompanied by a responsible adult and parents are welcome to join in most activities. Sheffield groups currently meet at: Shire Brook Valley (Woodhouse), Hillsborough Park, Weston Park Museum, Crookes (Bolehill Pavillion), Meersbrook Park, Handsworth and Enviro-youth (Stafford Road).



Take Action: If you are interested in helping run a group, or bringing your kids along, please speak to Sarah Jaggard for a current list of groups and contact details.

Win a pair of binoculars!

Win a pair of binoculars when your business joins the **Sheffield Wildlife Trust** as a **Corporate Member**.

Are you an employee of a business?
Are you interested in wildlife and the environment?
Should your employer be doing their bit for wildlife and the environment?

If the answer is **yes** then you have the chance to win a superb pair of binoculars if your company joins the Trust as a corporate member.

We offer four levels of Corporate Membership

Bronze	£300 + VAT per year
Silver	£500 + VAT per year
Gold	£1,000 + VAT per year
Diamond	£2,000 + VAT per year

There are different benefits depending on the level you choose.

To find out more about joining the Wildlife Trust as a corporate member contact our development team on 0114 263 4335 or email us at mail@wildsheffield.com

The closing date for entries is 21st September 2011.
The winner will be drawn at our AGM on 29th September 2011.

Like us...on Facebook

The last members' survey gave us some great insights into to what our members want from the Trust. Many of you want a medium so you can feel directly involved and stay right up to date with what is happening. Well now you can!

The most direct and interactive way of keeping up with the fast paced work of SWT is to follow us on Facebook. Here we post regular events and news updates. We'd also love you to post your thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

'Like' us now at: www.facebook.com/TheWildlifeTrustSheffieldandRotherham



ARTICLES

The dry weather

a taste of things to come?

So far, 2011 has been one of hottest and driest years on record. Climate change models predict more of these hot dry summers in South Yorkshire. But what impact is this having on our wildlife?

Reports include

- Woodland and heathland fires across the UK. There have been three small fires on SWT's reserves.
- Wildlife rescue centres have had an increase in the number of malnourished and dehydrated animals.
- Some migrating birds have been arriving earlier than usual, or at their usual time only to find their food source has finished.
- On the other hand, sun-loving animals such as butterflies and dragonflies are doing very well – sometimes too well – a recent outbreak of ermine moths in Bradford quickly stripped trees in a local park!

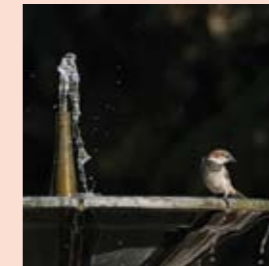


What is Sheffield Wildlife Trust doing?

The Wildlife Trusts are moving towards creating 'Living Landscapes' of connected well-managed habitats and other greenspaces which will be more resilient to changing climates and weather fluctuations.

Dry weather gardening tips

1. Wildlife needs to drink and bathe. Birds and mammals will use 'bird baths' or shallow dishes of water placed on the ground. Use a dish with sloped edges or include some kind of 'ladder' for wildlife to get in and out. The water should be changed every couple of days, so put it somewhere accessible – near cover is ideal, but not so covered that cats will use the dish as a dinner plate!
2. Remember food, too. Wet bird foods such as fat balls, meal worms and sunflower hearts are particularly welcome. If you are lucky enough to have hedgehogs or badgers, they may appreciate hedgehog food, as worms are harder to get from dry ground.
3. Top up your pond. If you have a water butt, rainwater is ideal. If not, it is best to buy (inexpensive) products to treat the chloramines in tap water before adding to a pond, to minimise the chance of harming wildlife.
4. Be untidy! Frogs, toads and invertebrates will love undisturbed, 'untidy' garden areas in which to shelter from the heat.
5. Make mud! If you make mud dollops, they may be used by bees, swallows and housemartins for nest-building. Use a border-edge or large dish or bin-lid. Children of all ages will love it!



Nicky Rivers

Living Seas

Lincolnshire's new network of marine protected areas

It may sound unlikely but Lincolnshire's Inner and Outer Dogs Heads are set to become part of a new nationwide network of marine protected areas. In the mouth of the Wash, the sand hills of the Dogs Heads rise up to three metres high and change with the rise and fall of each tide. Wildlife on site includes common seals who haul themselves out of the sea to rest and give birth to their pups and the little terns that nest at Gibraltar Point and fish for sand eels in the shallows.

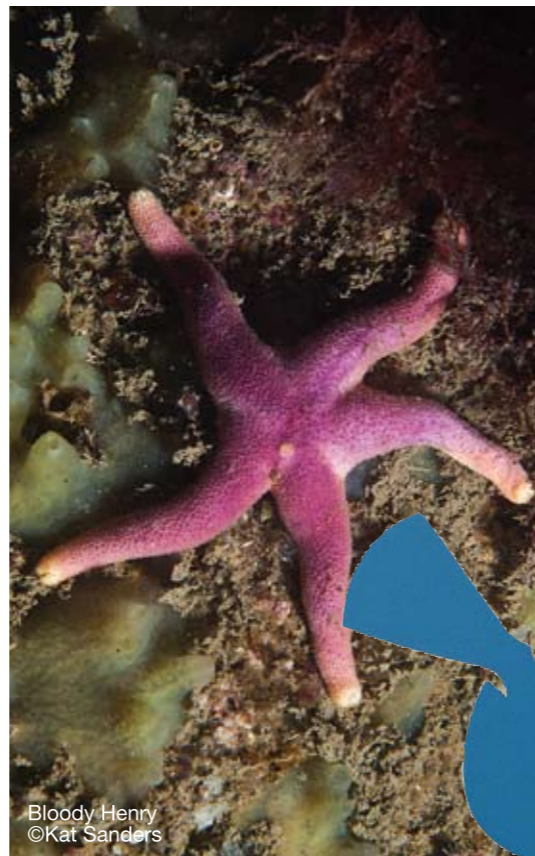
Elsewhere off the Lincolnshire coast, the wildlife is less recognisable but still in need of protection: the seabed is more varied than might be expected and includes important habitats. If all

goes to plan, there will be a protected area of living reef which is created by the tiny ross worm Sabellaria and an area of sand and gravels that will be left completely untouched. These areas will be given the maximum level of protection possible to seabed habitats preventing any destructive activities such as fishing, releasing waste building works.

Looking out to sea from Donna Nook you can see the marine protected area. It stretches 35km from the Humber Channel to Anderby Creek, from the low tideline three nautical miles (5.5km) out to sea. It is a post-glacial landscape with cliffs of clay and peat, and sunken forests. These solid

structures in the shifting sands form a home for sea anemones and provide shelter for fish.

The seabed has a range of different types of sediment from muddy, gravelly sands to a mosaic of cobbles and pebbles. This variety supports a



Bloody Henry
©Kat Sanders

wide range of animals, both on and in sediment including worms, bivalves, the incredibly long lived ocean quahog, starfish, urchins, anemones, sea firs and sea mats.

By 2012, the UK government is committed to establishing a strong, ecologically coherent and well managed network of marine protected areas that is well understood and supported by sea users, and this is where we need your help. Help us ensure that politicians keep their promise to protect these undersea landscapes and their wildlife by signing all of our petition fish scales.



Dahlia Anemone
©Kat Sanders

Petition Fish 2

The UK has a fabulously rich marine life, with many diverse habitats from estuary and mudflat, to high-rise cliff-top and craggy coastline. It is home to the world's second biggest fish - the plankton-eating basking

shark - stunning coral gardens and that master of camouflage, the cuttlefish.

Britain and Ireland serve as summer feeding grounds for whales, including minke whales, pilots and orcas, and as a year-round habitat for dolphins and porpoises.

As well as the bottlenose dolphin, the white-beaked, common, Atlantic white-sided and Risso's dolphin are also seen off our coasts.

Marine conservation is an essential part of the work of The Wildlife Trusts, and brings a number

of challenges. It is very different from land-based action - we cannot buy the seabed and declare it a reserve; we cannot send teams of volunteers with cutters and bowsaws to prune back a kelp forest; and we cannot let lose 'herds' of limpets to graze on an algal meadow!

Marine conservation will only succeed if wider measures are employed. Our role must be that of watchdog, lobbyist and partnership builder, working with Government, regulators, industry and the public. Our marine environment is precious and must be protected for the future - we cannot allow our seas to die.

The seas around the UK have the potential to be amongst the most productive and wildlife-rich on Earth. They support over 50% of the UK's biodiversity, supporting thousands of plants and animals, from tiny corals to the massive basking shark. At present, however our seas are a shadow of their former selves. For centuries, we have taken our sea's riches for granted, taking too much with too little care. Basking shark numbers have fallen by more than 95%, fish stocks are declining and

habitats are being destroyed - ripped up by fishing gear or contaminated by industry. At present, only 2% of the UK's sea area has even a minimal level of protection for wildlife and less than 0.001% is fully protected from all damaging activities.

Recent legislation has given us an opportunity to restore our seas to their full potential. The Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Marine (Scotland) Act have resulted in a duty to create a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in English, Welsh and Scottish waters. The Northern Irish Assembly is also in the process of creating legislation which should include MPAs in Northern Irish waters. If the potential of this network is realised, it should provide a refuge for our marine life and habitats throughout the UK, where they will be protected from damaging activities and allowed to recover.

By the end of 2012, a network of marine protected areas will be created but we have concerns that it will be inadequate. The sites chosen may not represent the full range of species and habitats in UK seas and some of our most important sites may even be missed off altogether.

We have a year to demonstrate the importance of a healthy and well protected sea- one that can continue to support the demands we place on it. Our aim is to present 100,000s of signatures to the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments in 2012 to demonstrate the overwhelming public support for marine protected areas.

Take Action: Sign a scale and add your voice to the campaign!



Durham WT- Shoresearch
©Kirsten Smith

Moors for the Future

The Wildscapes team has been involved in one of the biggest conservation projects ever undertaken in the UK, in one of the UK's most inaccessible workplaces - on the moors of the Peak District National Park.

Since the Victorians first fired up their coal-powered engines, polluted air has been killing off the plants that keep these moors healthy. Overgrazing, summer wildfires and the weather have also contributed to a management problem that, in large moorland areas, cannot be tackled by one organisation alone.

Moors for the Future is a partnership led by the Peak District National Park Authority. The partnership's mission statement is to "secure the legacy of 8,000 years of moorland life."

The team was responsible for spreading some of the 16,000 large bags of heather cuttings over 1.6 million square metres of bare and eroding peat in order to encourage the growth of a layer of vegetation. The heather was cut within from the Peak District / South Pennine area and airlifted by helicopter into the inaccessible places on the moor, for spreading by hand.

Wildscapes were selected to participate in some of this work because of their exceptional local knowledge, as well as their expert heather and moorland restoration skills. Their efforts will help stabilise bare peat in some of the most damaged areas of moorland, including Kinder Scout, Saddleworth and Bleaklow.

"It has been a privilege to work on this project, surrounded by the stark beauty of the moors" said project manager, Tom Grose, *"Knowing that we are having a direct impact on the future of these awe-inspiring moors, is very humbling."*

The 'MoorLife' project was recently awarded £5.5m from the European Life+ Fund to restore more than 2,000 acres of Peak District and South Pennine moorland. This was the largest sum to be awarded to a UK project in the history of the European Life+ Programme and Moors for the Future is now the biggest upland peat restoration operation in Europe. Peatlands are important for:

- Absorbing and storing carbon – by locking up billions of tons of carbon in the form of beautiful landscapes and precious wildlife habitats
- Providing good quality drinking water – around 70% of our drinking water comes from these landscapes
- Helping to reduce the likelihood of flooding – in good condition our moorlands slow the flow of rainwater, which can reduce the likelihood of flash flooding in downstream urban areas.

For more information visit the Moors for the Future website www.moorsforthefuture.org or ring Wildscapes on 0114 279 2667

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What is Wildscapes?

Interview with the Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham, Nigel Door

Can you explain why Wildscapes was set up?

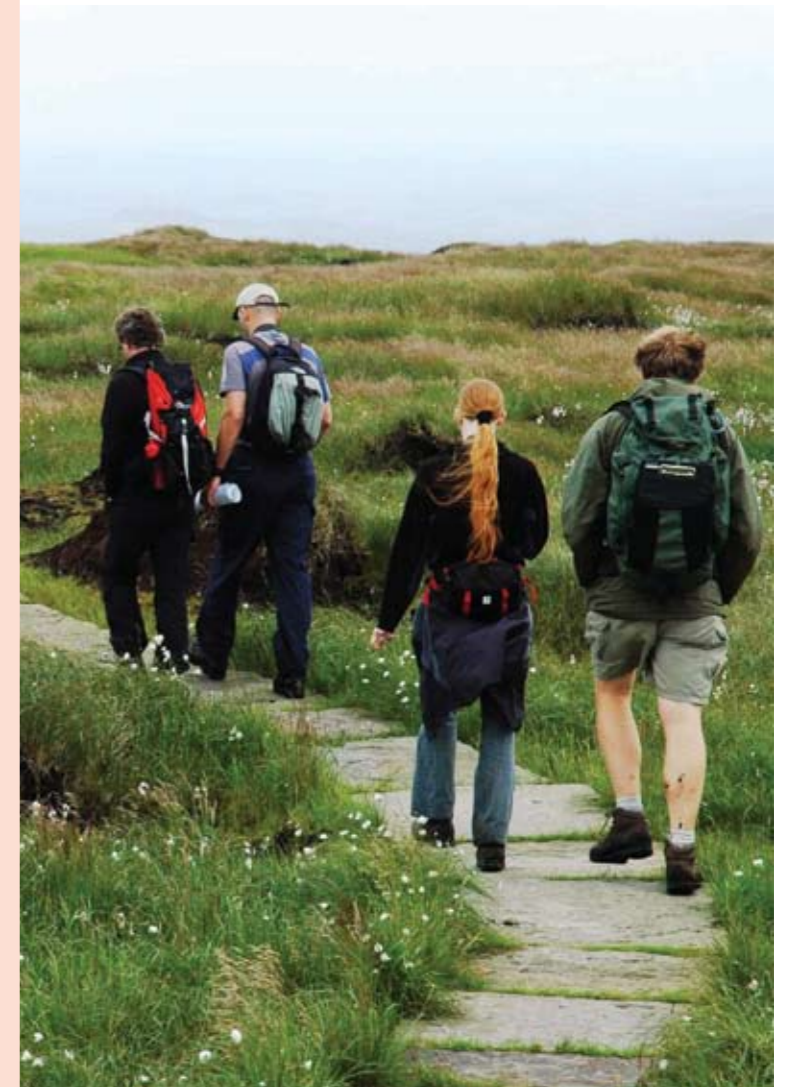
The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham was increasingly approached by developers, land managers and private businesses for advice and professional help to improve their land for wildlife and the environment. They wanted to be associated with an organisation that genuinely cared about the natural world. Access to our expertise and professional skills helps businesses improve developments, while maintaining their values towards people and nature; so in 2007, Wildscapes CIC was born.

What is the connection between Wildscapes and the Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham?

Wildscapes is owned entirely by the Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham; its ethos and moral stance is influenced by the Trust's knowledge and passion for nature. With many of the local regeneration programmes the Trust has been involved in completed, it made sense to bring our knowledge and skills to the wider market. The recent economic downturn makes it all the more important for businesses to think sustainably, and for the Trust to have a strong and effective consultancy generating income for the charity.

In what ways can businesses benefit from the expertise offered by Wildscapes?

Wildscapes offers high quality, cost effective services for business, while contributing to making towns, cities or villages greener and more sustainable. Working with Wildscapes means access to the staff, knowledge, and expertise of both Wildscapes and The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham, along with a network of 47 Wildlife Trusts across the country. From natural landscape design and community engagement in planning to detailed management plans and practical management, Wildscapes delivers a comprehensive service. Through all this, our work generates funds for South Yorkshire's number one nature conservation charity, and contributes directly to the creation of the Wildlife Trust's vision of a Living Landscape in which people and nature prosper.



In the second of his three guest articles, Roger Redfern ponders the horsetail, a common but fascinating plant.

Roger Redfern on the horsetail

Walking down a narrow green lane near home the other evening my eyes fell upon a mass of common horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) that covered the ground falling away to dark shadow, and that quite obscured the trickling brook. The low-angled sun lit the green mounds that were the tops of this common, yet strange, plant. This colony looked for all the world like a magnified growth of moss.

I've always had a soft spot for the various horsetails, ever since seeing the common form growing at the path edge leading to my hometown

railway station. And that's the sort of place it is most often seen, poking through the tarmac or upon railway embankments. My mother explained to me that this was a primitive plant and its ancestors could often be seen in fossil form in large lumps of coal. Its most fascinating feature as far as I was concerned was the way its jointed stems could be broken off. That colony on the station approach has long since vanished but here, miles from any railway, was a magnificent colony of the stuff.

And now the longest day has passed and I will savour the memory

of these extended evenings of adventure in green corners where the lowering sun illumines the shadiest nook. In the dark evenings ahead this dream country of sunlit midsummer will sustain and promise hope of another spring.

©Roger Redfern, who has generously granted us permission to reproduce his article is an author and photojournalist who has published many local guides. This piece first appeared in Country Diary in The Guardian on Tuesday 26 June 2007.

