

# Kingfisher



Sheffield &  
Rotherham



## In this edition...

Can you pinpoint  
these pollinators?

Your home:  
nature's castle

An evening with  
*The One Show's*  
Mike Dilger

How you  
can help...

You're invited to our AGM with

**The One Show's**

**Mike  
Dilger**

**21 September 2017**

**6pm - 9pm**



See back page for more details.

For other ways you can support us, visit  
**wildsheffield.com/how-you-can-help**

### Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust

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Find out more  
**wildsheffield.com**

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Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust is registered as a charity no. 700638 and company no. 2287928. *Kingfisher* is edited by Jane Campbell and Nick Howard, designed by Angela Zeballos [angela@az.design](mailto:angela@az.design) and printed by Northend Creative Print Solutions on FSC mixed credit paper.

If you have any comments or suggestions for future issues, you are welcome to write to the editors at the Trust's postal address, or via email at [kingfisher@wildsheffield.com](mailto:kingfisher@wildsheffield.com)

Cover photo: red-tailed bumblebee © Jon Hawkins Surrey Hills Photography

A big thank you to all  
our partners and funders:







Summer is a great season for 'noticing nature'. The warmer weather and longer days mean we are more likely to be outdoors and able to 'stand and stare'. And our humble bumblebees are easy to stand and stare at as they are found in most local green patches, parks or gardens. This is the time of year to see them – up close and loaded with pollen. They won't be too bothered about you watching them as they go about their business, so you can try and work out your buff-tailed from your bilberry and your tree from your red-tailed. If you need a bit of help turn to pages 4-5 to find out more.

With our fantastic volunteers, we have been working hard on our nature reserves, trying to ensure each site is great for wildlife and great for people to enjoy 'noticing nature'. Unfortunately, as you may already know, some of our volunteers' good work has been undone by a recent fire at Greno Woods. We are not sure how it started. It was towards the end of a very dry spell and so the bracken caught very easily. We happened to have a team on site and so the fire service were quickly called. It took some time to put the fire out but thankfully the large conifer stands did not catch. We are surveying the damage and will be working to restore and replant as best we can over the autumn and winter. Fires can, of course, be part of a natural cycle but, as ever, we humans can be a little careless and cause too many, leaving little time for nature's recovery.

Enjoy the summer and if you get the chance to look for bumblebees, why not visit one of our nature reserves you haven't been to before? Carr House Meadows has a fantastic flower meadow as does Carbrook Ravine. Send us your photos and let us know your 'nature notices'.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Chief Executive

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# Can you pinpoint these pollinators?



Worker red-tailed bumblebee © Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography

**There's an acoustic accompaniment to lazy summer days which is probably ingrained in our collective consciousness: the gentle buzz of pollinators. And if you listen carefully, you will hear within it the deep, distinctive buzz of the bumblebee.**

They may seem comical characters bumbling round your garden but they are vitally important pollinators for a wide range of wildflowers and commercially-grown crops, and may be indicators of climate change. Bumblebees are also a complex group of species which provide a gratifying challenge for any keen amateur entomologist.

Of the 24 bumblebee species found in the UK, the buff-tailed, white-tailed, red-tailed, common carder, garden, heath and early bumblebees are the most commonly found. In addition, South Yorkshire is also home to two other bumblebees, whose territories converge in the north of England: the tree bumblebee and the more rare bilberry bumblebee. Both make a fascinating identification challenge, and both may be important local indicators of global climate change.

The tree bumblebee, *Bombus hypnorum*, only arrived in this country from Europe in 2001, and has steadily been making its way northwards since then. You may well spot it in your own garden: its distinctive black head, ginger-coloured thorax, and black abdomen with a white tail make it easy to identify, as well as a varying bald spot on its back. One of the first species to emerge in spring, it has a propensity to nest above ground in abandoned bird boxes. From May to July groups of drones can sometimes be seen performing an aerial dance outside the nest as they wait for the virgin queens to emerge, and by the end of July tree bumblebees will already be less visible than other species in the north of England.

Meanwhile, the Trust's Blacka Moor nature reserve on the edge of Sheffield is one of the most southerly reaches of the scarce bilberry or blaeberry bumblebee, *Bombus monticola*. Whilst the tree bumblebee has potentially benefitted from climate change, the bilberry bumblebee is a cool-loving species and therefore likely to be vulnerable to a warming climate. In the UK it reaches the south-eastern edge of its distribution in the Peak District and, away from the coast, is only found above 300m, and so this area is likely to be one of the first places that its decline will be observed.

The Trust has just completed a year-long programme of heathland restoration on Blacka Moor, our largest reserve at 180 hectares, so we are now working with our volunteers to monitor the impact of this work (see page 10) on key species including the tree, bilberry and red-tailed bumblebees (pictured above). This work is part of Moors for the Future Partnership's Heritage Lottery-funded Community Science project, harnessing citizen science to monitor the impacts of climate change on rare and iconic upland species like the bilberry bumblebee.

The identification of Britain's bumblebee species is a challenging endeavour for many reasons. 'Cuckoo' bumblebees, for example, are often mistaken for 'true' or social bumblebees and lay their eggs in the nests of host bumblebees, killing the queen and leaving the workers to raise their young. Their markings often replicate their host species, but they emerge from hibernation later in the year, when their host nests are already established. Cuckoo bumblebees don't collect pollen, so can be identified by the lack of pollen baskets on their back legs, which are more hairy than those of true bumblebees.

The males, females and workers of some species can also present different markings. At this time of year bumblebee colonies will include worker bees and the founder queen as well as new, young queens that will mate, then overwinter in soil burrows before establishing next year's colony. Male bumblebees are also produced in late summer. Worker bees are sterile females whose job it is to gather nectar and pollen to feed the grubs and look after the nest.

Recording precious bumblebee populations is vital for their future. The bumblebee may seem ubiquitous, but populations are plummeting and two species have already become extinct in the UK since the 1940s: Cullem's bumblebee (*Bombus cullumanus*) and the short-haired bumblebee (*Bombus subterraneus*), which is currently being reintroduced in Kent. Bumblebees rely exclusively on flowers for food, and their numbers have been eroded by the advent of increasingly intensive farming methods since the 1930s, which has led to the loss of over 95% of our flower-rich grassland.



Why not test your identification skills this summer and help us monitor bumblebees on Blacka Moor? Use the guide below and report back your findings to Moors for the Future Community Science (see More information, below).

## Bilberry bumblebee

A cold-loving species of uplands which is expected to decline in the Peak District in response to climate change.

**Queens:** 16mm  
**Males:** 14mm  
**Workers:** 12mm

Over half of the base of the abdomen is red and there are two lemon yellow bands on the thorax. All have same colouring. Worker shown in illustration.



## Tree bumblebee

First seen in the UK in 2000, it is rapidly expanding its distribution northwards. Expected to increase in abundance and distribution in the Peak District.

**Queens:** 18mm  
**Males:** 16mm  
**Workers:** 14mm

Black head, thorax tawny to dark brown and white tip to black abdomen. All have same colouring. Worker shown in illustration.



## Red-tailed bumblebee

A widespread and common species also expanding northwards. Less common in the uplands but this may alter with climate change.

**Queens:** 20-22mm  
**Males:** 14-16mm  
**Workers:** 11-16mm

Queens and workers are black with an orange-red tail. Males have yellow facial hairs and yellow bands on the thorax. Worker shown in illustration.



Illustrations © Chris Shields, courtesy of Moors for the Future

### Don't forget to ...

1

#### Check the tail colour

Tail colours fade over the season, so an orange bottom can fade to buff by September.

2

#### Look at the bands

The number, colour and position of bands on the head, thorax and abdomen are useful differentiators of species.

3

#### Check whether it is male or female

Male bumblebees do not have stings, and don't collect pollen for the nests. Females fly busily from flower to flower, whilst males often spend longer on each flower or fly around looking for a mate. Some males also have yellow heads.



### More information

**Bee Creative in the Garden:** is a Wildlife Trusts and Royal Horticultural Society campaign culminating in Wild About Gardens Week, 23 - 29 October 2017 [wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk](http://wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk)

**Community Science:** is a Moors for the Future project monitoring key upland species including bumblebees [moorsforthefuture.org.uk/community-science/bumblebee-surveys](http://moorsforthefuture.org.uk/community-science/bumblebee-surveys)

**Pollinating the Peak:** is a recently-launched Bumblebee Conservation Trust project to monitor local bumblebee populations [bumblebeeconservation.org/about-us/our-projects/pollinating-the-peak](http://bumblebeeconservation.org/about-us/our-projects/pollinating-the-peak)

# Making better homes for local wildlife



## Manpower for Carr House wildflowers

We have been working hard over the cooler months to restore and enlarge a particularly magnificent local wildflower meadow at Carr House Meadows, thanks to funding from Veolia Environmental Trust. As well as removing scrub, thinning conifers and laying over a hundred metres of hedges, the team removed a large spoil heap, a relic of the site's former status as a working farm. With the help of a JCB and a pair of nosy wagtails, the team cleared several tons of old silage bags, tyres and brambles in preparation for spreading green hay on the area later in the year. They were rewarded with sightings of greater spotted woodpeckers, chiffchaffs, nuthatches and the resident tawny owl.

## Evidence of willow tit breeding in Rivelin



We were delighted to hear that surveyors from Sorby Breck Ringing Group recently recorded a first year adult willow tit in the Rivelin Valley. This indication that one of Britain's most endangered bird species is successfully breeding here is a great boost to the work we have been doing at Fox Hagg reserve in this valley for the past four years to create deadwood stumps as nesting sites for these special birds. If you're keen to spot willow tits, you may be lucky enough to catch them next spring as the first of these stumps mature into potential nest sites.

## News in Brief...

### Mysterious mounds at Centenary Riverside

Your votes for Tesco's Bags of Help won the Trust vital funding to carry out regular willow thinning and pollarding at Centenary Riverside earlier this year - and we will be turning the offcuts into hidden woodchip nesting sites for grass snakes.



© Chris Lawrence

### Cattle enlisted as conservation secret weapon

In June we reintroduced cattle to Kilnhurst Ings as part of our wetland management plan, funded by the Countryside Stewardship scheme. This year, new grazing infrastructure on the site will help create a habitat mosaic with just the right conditions for nesting snipe.

### Speed-spotting

One of our volunteers recently spotted no fewer than 17 different species of birds in just one half-hour visit to Crabtree Ponds, just a few minutes walk from the Northern General Hospital in Burngreave.

### Open for business

Salmon Pastures can be found just off the Five Wiers Walk in Attercliffe. One of our smallest reserves, it is home to what must, at just 20m<sup>2</sup>, be one of the smallest and most unusually located areas of heathland in Sheffield. The reserve is back open for business following Environment Agency works on the river.

## Help out...

on our reserves, see pages 8-9 or visit [wildsheffield.com/whats-on](http://wildsheffield.com/whats-on)

## Landscape Partnership

We are delighted to announce that the Trust's new Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership development team are now in residence, following Heritage Lottery Fund's initial approval of a £2.8 million grant to protect and improve this unique area of the city. Look out for further updates and plans from the partnership development team in November's edition of *Kingfisher*.







<b>1/3 mile</b>	<b>hedgerows restored</b>
<b>3 miles</b>	<b>fencing installed for cattle grazing</b>
<b>1/2 mile</b>	<b>wet ditch reinstated</b>
<b>2 new</b>	<b>wet scrapes created</b>
<b>2 new</b>	<b>interpretation panels</b>



## Woodhouse Washlands: **getting wetter and better**

Since taking on management of Woodhouse Washlands nature reserve in spring last year, we've undertaken a mammoth programme of habitat restoration on this wetland site. Thanks to grant funding from Higher Level Stewardship and Veolia Environmental Trust we've been able to take some big strides forward to improve this nature reserve for wildlife and local residents.

### Hedgerow restoration

After attending our training day on the traditional skill of hedgelaying, our volunteers have worked hard with the Land Management team and contractors to restore hedgerows on the site. These restored hedges will provide great habitat for nesting birds and small mammals and a valuable food source for winter migrants such as fieldfare, redwing and waxwing.

### Conservation grazing

Improving the 20-year-old fencing on this reserve has allowed us to keep cattle on the reserve and add further grazing compartments. Grazing over the summer months helps to maintain the right conditions for ground nesting birds such as skylark, while also providing a food source for the swallows and house martins which feed on insects over the Washlands.

### Wetland restoration

Most of this site's wetland habitat was lost when the River Rother was straightened and the site largely drained in the late 1950s. We have been working hard to replace some of these lost wetlands, to provide a habitat for resident wetland species such as grass snake and great crested newt and provide feeding areas for wading birds. An early sign of success, a little egret was seen for the first time on the reserve this spring.



### Access and interpretation

Managing public access and conservation can be challenging on popular dog-walking sites such as this one, but we are working with local residents to find a good balance that meets the needs of both people and wildlife. New kissing gates and footpath surfacing have been installed to encourage visitors to walk the edges of

the reserve, while reducing disturbance to breeding and overwintering birds in the core wetland areas. With the help of local volunteers (pictured) we have sown an area of colourful wildflowers close to the reserve entrance, and run monthly volunteer days where people can help wildlife on the reserve.

### What next?

We have developed a detailed nature reserve management plan, which details our proposals for the coming eight years. The plan, which is based on survey data of the reserve's wildlife and extensive consultation, can be found at [wildsheffield.com/woodhousewashlands](http://wildsheffield.com/woodhousewashlands)

We are currently seeking funding to deliver the management plan, and have already been successful in securing grants from Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency which will allow us to design and implement ambitious habitat improvements on the Washlands.

## July

### Friday 7th

**Victoria Hall: Wild at Heart Wildlife Gardening Session**  
37 Stafford Road, S2 2SF  
10am - 12noon

### Monday 10th

**Centenary Riverside Work Day**  
Riverside Way, S60 1DS  
10am - 3pm

### Tuesday 11th

**Wild at Heart Nature Photography - Padley Gorge**  
37 Stafford Road  
9.30am - 1pm

### Thursday 13th

**Crabtree Ponds Reserve Advisory Group**  
Meet on site at the pond  
6pm - 7.30pm

### Friday 14th

**Dragons & Damsels Identification Workshop** 🌸  
37 Stafford Road  
10am - 4pm

### Saturday 15th

**Butterfly Walk** 🐛 🌸  
Manor Fields  
Time to be confirmed

### Sunday 16th

**Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day** 🐛  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

**Wildflower Walk** 🐛 🌸  
Greno Woods  
10am-2pm

### Thursday 20th

**Blacka Moor Work Day**  
Stony Ridge Car Park, S11 7TW  
10am - 3pm

**Wonderful Moths** 🐛 🌸  
Woodhouse Washlands  
8.30 - 10.30pm

### Friday 21st

**Woodhouse Washlands Work Day** 🐛  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

### Tuesday 25th

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

### Wednesday 26th

**Sunnybank Work Day**  
Broomhall Place, S10 2DG  
10am - 12noon

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon

### Thursday 27th

**Wild at Heart Nature Photography - Dragonflies at Potteric Carr**  
37 Stafford Road  
9.30am - 1pm

**Greno Woods Wild Play & Wild Side** 🌸  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
Wild Side: 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Wild Play: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

**Sunnybank Reserve Advisory Group** 🐛  
Venue to be confirmed  
6pm - 7.30pm

### Friday 28th

**Greno Woods Work Day**  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
10am - 3pm

### Saturday 29th

**Sheffield Bioblitz with Nature Counts** 🐛  
Weston Park Museum  
All day

**Nature Counts Exhibition Launch**  
Weston Park Museum  
10am

**Guided Invertebrate Walk**  
Ponderosa,  
Weston Park Museum  
11am & 2pm

## August

### Tuesday 1st

**Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day** 🐛  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🐛 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

### Wednesday 2nd

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🐛 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon

### Thursday 3rd

**Moss Valley Woodlands Work Day**  
Hazlehurst Lane layby, S8 8DZ  
10am - 3pm

**Greno Woods Wild Play & Wild Side** 🌸  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
Wild Side: 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Wild Play: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

### Friday 4th

**Victoria Hall: Wild at Heart Wildlife Gardening Session**  
37 Stafford Road  
10am - 12noon

### Saturday 5th

**Blacka Moor Work Day**  
Stony Ridge Car Park, S11 7TW  
10am - 3pm

### Monday 7th

**Crabtree Ponds Work Day**  
Crabtree Close, S5 7BJ  
10am - 12.30pm

### Tuesday 8th

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

### Wednesday 9th

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon

### Thursday 10th

**Greno Woods Wild Play & Wild Side** 🌸  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
Wild Side: 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Wild Play: 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
**Carr House Meadows Reserve Advisory Group**  
Meet at the Car Park  
7pm - 9pm

### Monday 14th

**Centenary Riverside Work Day**  
Riverside Way, S60 1DS  
10am - 3pm

### Tuesday 15th

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

### Wednesday 16th

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon

### Thursday 17th

**Blacka Moor Work Day**  
Stony Ridge Car Park, S11 7TW  
10am - 3pm

**Greno Woods Wild Play & Wild Side** 🌸  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
Wild Side: 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Wild Play: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

### Friday 18th

**Woodhouse Washlands Work Day** 🐛  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

### Saturday 19th

**Introduction to Shieldbugs** 🌸  
37 Stafford Road  
10am - 4pm

### Tuesday 22nd

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

#### Event Key:

🐛 Venues or times vary or to be confirmed - check website & contact us 🌸 Online booking essential

## Volunteer Work Days

Why not lend a hand at your local nature reserve, get some healthy exercise and help us to keep our wild spaces looking lovely? Everyone is welcome, no experience is needed and we will provide equipment and training. Contact the reserves team on [nature.reserves@wildsheffield.com](mailto:nature.reserves@wildsheffield.com)

## Wild Play

Come and join us out in the wild. All Wild Play (all ages) and Wild Side (8-13 years) events cost £3 for members and £5 for non-members. Online booking is essential - please visit [wildsheffield.com/whats-on](http://wildsheffield.com/whats-on). For more information contact the Wild Play team on [playwild@wildsheffield.com](mailto:playwild@wildsheffield.com)





**Wednesday 23rd**

**Sunnybank Work Day**  
Broomhall Place, S10 2DG  
10am - 12noon

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon

**Thursday 24th**

**Greno Woods Wild Play & Wild Side** 🌸  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
Wild Side: 10am - 12noon  
Wild Play: 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
**Wyming Brook and Fox Hagg Reserve Advisory Group**  
Meet at Rivelin Dam Yorkshire Water Car Park  
7pm - 9pm

**Friday 25th**

**Greno Woods Work Day**  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
10am - 3pm

**Tuesday 29th**

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

**Wednesday 30th**

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon

**Thursday 31st**

**Greno Woods Wild Play & Wild Side** 🌸  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
Wild Side: 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Wild Play: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

**September****Friday 1st**

**Victoria Hall: Wild at Heart Wildlife Gardening Session**  
37 Stafford Road  
10am - 12noon

**Saturday 2nd**

**Blacka Moor Work Day**  
Stony Ridge Car Park, S11 7TW  
10am - 3pm

**Monday 4th**

**Crabtree Ponds Work Day**  
Crabtree Close, S5 7BJ  
10am - 12.30pm

**Tuesday 5th**

**Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day** 🐝  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

**Otterly Amazing Results** 🐝  
Venue and time tbc

**Thursday 7th**

**Moss Valley Woodlands Work Day**  
Hazlehurst Lane layby, S8 8DZ  
10am - 3pm  
**Harvestmen Identification Workshop** 🌸  
37 Stafford Road  
10am - 4pm

**Monday 11th**

**Centenary Riverside Work Day**  
Riverside Way, S60 1DS  
10am - 3pm

**Friday 15th**

**Woodhouse Washlands Work Day**  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

**Saturday 16th**

**Small Mammal Trapping & Surveying** 🌸  
Crabtree Ponds  
6am - 7.30am

**Thursday 21st**

**Blacka Moor Work Day**  
Stony Ridge Car Park, S11 7TW  
10am - 3pm

**AGM****Thursday 21st**

37 Stafford Road, S2 2SF  
6pm - 9pm

with *The One Show's*  
Mike Dilger

Book online at  
[wildsheffield.com/AGM2017](http://wildsheffield.com/AGM2017)

**Saturday 23rd**

**Blacka Moor User Forum** 🐝  
Venue to be confirmed  
10am - 12noon

**Sunday 24th**

**Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day** 🐝  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

**Wednesday 27th**

**Sunnybank Work Day**  
Broomhall Place, S10 2DG  
10am - 12noon

**Friday 29th**

**Greno Woods Work Day**  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
10am - 3pm  
**Frog Rescue Work Day**  
William Street, Sunnybank  
10am - 3pm  
**Meet the Frogs**  
Broomhill Place, Sunnybank  
3pm - 4pm

**October****Monday 2nd**

**Shake A Rake Work Day**  
Broomhall Place, Sunnybank  
10am - 3pm

**Crabtree Ponds Work Day**  
Crabtree Close, S5 7BJ  
10am - 12.30pm

**Tuesday 3rd**

**Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day** 🐝  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

**Thursday 5th**

**Moss Valley Woodlands Work Day**  
Hazlehurst Lane layby, S8 8DZ  
10am - 3pm

**Friday 6th**

**Victoria Hall: Wild at Heart Wildlife Gardening Session**  
37 Stafford Road  
10am - 12noon

**Saturday 7th**

**Blacka Moor Work Day**  
Stony Ridge Car Park, S11 7TW  
10am - 3pm

**Monday 9th**

**Centenary Riverside Work Day**  
Riverside Way, S60 1DS  
10am - 3pm

**Thursday 19th**

**Blacka Moor Work Day**  
Stony Ridge Car Park, S11 7TW  
10am - 3pm  
**Introduction to Woodlice** 🌸  
37 Stafford Road  
10am - 4pm

**Friday 20th**

**Woodhouse Washlands Work Day** 🐝  
Meeting point varies  
10am - 3pm

**Wednesday 25th**

**Sunnybank Work Day**  
Broomhall Place, S10 2DG  
10am - 12noon

**Friday 27th**

**Greno Woods Work Day**  
Woodhead Rd Car Park, S35 8RS  
10am - 3pm

**Saturday 28th**

**Fungi Identification Workshop** 🌸  
Coal Aston Village Hall  
9am - 1pm

**Tuesday 31st**

**Ecclesall Woods Wild Play** 🌸  
Woodland Discovery Centre  
10am - 12noon, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

**Find out more...**

🐝 For more information about all our events, including exact meeting points, please visit [wildsheffield.com/whats-on](http://wildsheffield.com/whats-on) or call 0114 263 4335.

**Be social...**

share your sightings  
send us your  
photos and videos



# Taking Sheffield and Rotherham into the wild

Read on for a round-up of how we have been helping more people access their local wild places.



## Ed Byrne tries surveying bilberry bumblebees at Blacka Moor

At the beginning of April the Trust enlisted the support of brilliant comedian and lover of the outdoors Ed Byrne to help survey bilberry bumblebees at Blacka Moor. Ed became the newest member of our growing bumblebee-monitoring community of volunteers, which also includes 35 members of our Wild at Heart project, who recently surveyed bumblebees at Wyming Brook as part of Moors for the Future's citizen science project.

For more about the bilberry bumblebee and to find out how to get involved, turn to page 4. Pick up the July issue of *The Great Outdoors* magazine also to read how Ed's visit went!



## European funding for Greno Woods visitor facilities



Lying on the northern fringe of Sheffield, the attractive matrix of woodland, heathland and ancient field systems known locally as Grenoside Woods, attracts thousands of visitors every year. On paper the wood is in fact three woodlands: Wharncliffe, Wheata and the Trust's own Greno Woods. In reality, they comprise one continuous landscape, through which miles of footpaths, bridleways and cycle trails carry visitors on their own personal voyage of discovery.

Loved both by locals and visitors from afar, things have been getting increasingly busy down in the woods in recent years. With Sheffield embracing its title of 'The Outdoor City' and the growth of sports such as downhill mountain biking, people are taking advantage of this previously undiscovered gem in Sheffield's crown.

In response, the Trust is working with other local landowners to manage this influx and to improve visitor facilities adjacent to the main entrance to the woods. Thanks to funding from the European Regional Development Fund's LEADER programme, distributed through the East Peak Innovation Partnership's LEADER Fund, a masterplan for this gateway to the woodlands, which will look at issues such as parking and toilet facilities, will be developed this winter. In addition, improvements to site security, access and interpretation will also be carried out. A toddler play trail for the wood's youngest visitors will also be installed ready for next spring.

## Feel the benefit with Shmapped!

This summer sees the launch of an exciting new smartphone app for Sheffield's green space users. 'Shmapped' invites people in Sheffield to help map the good things about the city to provide valuable data that can be used to improve urban spaces and local wellbeing. The app is a core component of a three-year research project by IWUN (Improving Wellbeing through Urban Nature), a collaboration between researchers from the Universities of Derby and Sheffield, in partnership with Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. To find out about the app's launch event, the associated guided walks across the city and how to be part of the IWUN project, go to [wildsheffield.com/shmapped](http://wildsheffield.com/shmapped)





## A new outdoor learning network for South Yorkshire's teachers

Since 2015...

**500**

teachers engaged  
in outdoor learning

**7,000+**

children experienced  
outdoor learning with the Trust

**600**

student teachers trained  
in outdoor learning



Teachers received an outdoor learning boost in March with the launch of a new network for schools in Sheffield and surrounding areas. The Sheffield Teach Wild Network, which is being run by Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust's Outdoor Learning team and supported by school improvement organisation Learn Sheffield, is helping to inspire teachers to get children learning in the great outdoors by providing them with expert advice and resources to help make it happen.

The event heard from experienced outdoor learning leaders Becky Merriman (Manor Lodge Primary) and Sarah Jaggard (Oughtibridge Primary) about their projects to rewild school grounds and introduce outdoor learning experiences across the whole school. Participants got a chance to test out the Trust's pond-dipping cameras and meet our resident frogs (above) - as well as take home a goody bag packed full of tips and resources to take back to the classroom.

**"We want to empower teachers and leaders to make outdoor learning part of everyday school life, and help them share ideas and advice with each other."**

*Chris Smith, Outdoor Learning team lead,  
Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust*



At our last network meeting we heard from Becky Handy, St Catherine's Catholic Primary's science coordinator, about their pupil-led pond design project and Kieron Turney, biology teacher at Handsworth Grange, about leading wildlife-themed after-school clubs. The next meeting will take place in September. Be the first to know when we release the date by signing up to the network at [wildsheffield.com/teachwildnetwork](http://wildsheffield.com/teachwildnetwork)

### Are you a teacher?

Ask us for advice on getting outside @TeachWildSheff

## Interested in rewilding your school grounds?



If you can find time in between organising prize-giving and sports day, summer term is a great time to plan in your outdoor learning projects for the autumn term. Autumn is the season to consider installing a pond, a wildlife area or simply a handful of bird and bat boxes. Last autumn our Wildscapes team helped Manor Lodge primary school install a wildlife area into their school grounds: the new area was packed full of opportunities for learning outside from den-building kits (pictured) to a bird hide. The wood-based products all come from local craftspeople and are sustainably sourced. Go to [wildsheffield.com/wildplay](http://wildsheffield.com/wildplay) for a range of outdoor learning resources from bug binoculars to vegetable bed kits.

# Fighting for your wildlife

The start of 2017 saw a fantastic response to the Trust's Save Smithy Wood and True Bluebells campaigns, with you, our members, joining forces with the Trust in two important projects to protect local wildlife.

## Save Smithy Wood

Over 300 people gathered outside Sheffield Town Hall on Saturday 18 March to demonstrate their objection to the proposal to build a major motorway service area on Smithy Wood - a Local Wildlife Site and ancient woodland in Sheffield's green belt - in a peaceful protest organised by the Trust.

The proposal was set to be considered by Sheffield City Council's planning committee on 28 March, but has been delayed following news of another proposal to build a motorway service area at Junction 33 on the M1, a site designated for this type of development.

Speakers at the protest included: Liz Ballard, CEO of Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust; Oliver Newham, Senior Campaigner at the Woodland Trust; Jean Howe, Chair of Cowley Residents Action Group; Angela Smith, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge; and local councillor Steve Wilson.

A massive thank you goes to those of you who have written to councillors and the press, and who attended the protest as both these actions are having a noticeable impact. Sheffield City Council has received over 1,000 online objections to the proposals, with the vast majority citing the loss of this important habitat for local wildlife as their key reason for opposing the application. We still need to keep fighting to protect Smithy Wood - so if you have not yet put pen to paper please help us now!

Find our latest updates about the campaign and information about how you can take action at [wildsheffield.com/smithywood](http://wildsheffield.com/smithywood)



## Flood Protection

In autumn 2016, a public consultation was undertaken on flood protection proposals for Sheffield - including some controversial locations for Flood Storage Areas and in particular proposals on ancient woodland and local wildlife sites. The results are now available with sites shortlisted by Sheffield City Council for more detailed consideration.

Sites no longer being considered include: Totley Brook (Gillifield Woods); Whiteley Woods; Beeley Wood; two of the three Loxley Valley schemes; and one of the two Rivelin Valley schemes. We are really pleased to see

that a significant number of important wildlife sites have been removed from the list. However, there are still three schemes of concern on the revised shortlist: Mayfield; Loxley Wisewood; and Rivelin Roscoe.

We are also pleased to see that some of our requests to consider natural flood management and upstream solutions are now being considered and we have been invited to join the partnership group that is being established to develop this further. We will keep you updated and welcome, as always, your views.

## Fracking

If you live in North East Derbyshire or Harthill you may well have noticed that local groups have been springing up in opposition to proposals to frack in these areas. Although no applications are live in our operating area at the moment, we are monitoring the situation for any potential threats to wildlife.

## Sheffield Local Plan and Sheffield Trees and Woodlands Strategy

Sheffield City Council's Sheffield Local Plan, which will detail planning policies and allocate areas for development in Sheffield between 2019 and 2034, has been delayed. A consultation is now expected in October - we will keep you informed of our views and how you may want to get involved. The Sheffield Trees and Woodlands Strategy has also been delayed due to council staff cuts and we are awaiting a new publication date.



## What next for a greener Brexit?

With a rather eventful general election providing Sheffield and Rotherham with a full complement of Labour MPs, the biggest item on the political agenda is the Brexit negotiations. With a minority government in power, now more than ever we need your help to seize this opportunity to make our new post-Brexit environmental laws ambitious and meaningful.

You can keep the environment high on the agenda by asking your newly-elected MP questions such as:

- How will you ensure the same level of legal protection for our internationally important species and local wildlife sites after Brexit?
- How will you ensure the same level of funding for schemes that encourage farmers, landowners and managers to deliver environmentally-friendly farming and a natural environment we can all enjoy and benefit from after Brexit?
- How will you ensure that our air and water quality continues to improve, meeting or exceeding the standards currently set by EU frameworks?

More information can be found at [wildsheffield.com/GE-2017](http://wildsheffield.com/GE-2017)

Why not email your MP today and share their response with us at [takeaction@wildsheffield.com](mailto:takeaction@wildsheffield.com)

## Help wildlife as a Co-op Member

We are delighted to have been named in the latest round of Co-op's Local Community Fund, which is now open! If you are a Co-op Member, you can donate 1% of what you spend on Co-op branded products to help the Trust restore the wild flower meadows at Carbrook Ravine via your online account. If you're not a Co-op Member, you can sign up online at any time and support our cause! Find out more at [coop.co.uk/membership](http://coop.co.uk/membership)

## True Bluebells

In April and May we called on Sheffield's budding citizen scientists to map the city's bluebells. Your response has been fantastic - and will help protect threatened native British bluebell populations for years to come. Whether you listened to Dr Fred Rumsey describing Europe's bluebell varieties, helped to map non-natives in your local wood, attended a guided walk or folded an origami flower, it was great to have your input. Thank you especially to those who upgraded their regular donation in response to our appeal. Our aim was to raise the profile of the conservation issue surrounding the hybridisation of native bluebells by non-native garden varieties and to provide people with the skills to distinguish between them.

**300+ people took part in April's True Bluebells weekend**

**3,000 bluebell identification leaflets distributed**

**100+ records of bluebells mapped across Sheffield**



- record of native bluebell
- record of hybrid bluebell
- ancient woodland



The data mapped by our volunteers and by you as citizen scientists shows the degree of hybridisation of bluebells within Sheffield's many ancient woodlands. This picture is vital for determining how native bluebells are faring as we prepare the State of Nature report for Sheffield.

Remember, recording wildlife isn't a one-off event. We need you to map bluebells and other wildlife you can recognise year after year. Only then can researchers and conservationists see how species distributions are changing and recognise any threats to our green heritage. Find out more at [wildsheffield.com/naturecounts](http://wildsheffield.com/naturecounts)

**What next for bluebells?** We are delighted to be kickstarting the 'Saving Moss Valley's Bluebells' project, with the kind support of Veolia Environmental Trust. Running from now until Autumn 2018, the project will tackle the dense holly encroachment of the reserve's renowned bluebell patches and train volunteers to carry out vegetation surveys.



© Daniel Hines

## Contact our campaigns team...



@WildSheffield



Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust



email us with your views at [takeaction@wildsheffield.com](mailto:takeaction@wildsheffield.com)



[wildsheffield.com/campaigns](http://wildsheffield.com/campaigns)





Hannah, pictured, is one of the Trust's community wildlife rangers.



## Hannah's wildlife gardening tips

**Let grass grow** Even a small patch of unmown grass will quickly erupt into a busy habitat.

**Make compost** Recycling garden waste can boost your garden's fertility without using chemical fertilisers.

**Feed the birds** Feed your garden birds throughout the summer for hours of natural delight!

**Plant a hedge** Adding height turns a garden from a bungalow into a high-rise luxury wildlife hotel.

**Mind the gap** Small gaps at the bottom of fences let hedgehogs roam from garden to garden.

**Pile up the leaves** Piles of leaves are habitats for invertebrates as well as hibernation sites.

**Grow more ivy** Ivy provides food, shelter and nesting sites for a host of creatures.

**Create more crannies** Bug hotels, walls, stone piles and plant stems all help insects, amphibians and small mammals survive the winter.

**Put out water** Providing any source of water is vital for wildlife in a garden.

**Don't deadhead** Leaving your plant stems over winter provides hibernation sites for insects.

**Plant for pollinators** Plan in lots of nectar and pollen-rich flowers for butterflies and bees.



# Your home: nature's castle

We might be a crowded nation, but the English have always treasured their home as their castle. And with approximately 15 million gardens in the UK covering an acreage greater than all the national nature reserves combined, our homes and gardens are also vitally important sanctuaries for wildlife too.

So if you're relaxing in your own personal haven this summer, spare a thought for your local urban wildlife and start planning how to make your garden more wildlife-friendly in 2018 with a little help from our experts. Hannah, pictured, leads the team of volunteers and rangers who have helped wildlife flourish at the Trust's wildlife garden at Victoria Hall near Norfolk Park in Sheffield.



A curled *Arthur dendyus triangulatus* © Paul Richards

If your garden is already a haven for wildlife, you can help even more by recording and reporting unusual sightings - which helps organisations like the Trust monitor and protect important species like bumblebees (see pages 4-5). One of our resident entomologists, Paul Richards, has found non-native flatworms in his own Sheffield garden. Intrigued, he is calling for gardeners and allotment-holders to report their sightings too.

**"There are three types of non-native flatworm in the UK, the most well-known of which is the New Zealand flatworm, *Arthur dendyus triangulatus*. This is a notifiable pest and a predator of native earthworms, the gardener's best friend. They are fascinatingly gruesome creatures, which can autolyse (produce enzymes which dissolve their own bodies) when handled."**

*Paul Richards, entomologist, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust*

If you find flatworms in your garden, email us at [naturecounts@wildsheffield.com](mailto:naturecounts@wildsheffield.com). For advice on how to tackle flatworms, go to [opalexplornature.org/nzflatworm](http://opalexplornature.org/nzflatworm)



Summer is the time when bats are most active, rearing their young in maternity roosts and getting ready for autumn swarming. It's also the best time of year to think about having a bat survey done if you're considering work to your property. *Kingfisher* spoke to chiropterologists Jon Goodrick and Paul Liptrot from the Trust's Wildscapes environmental consultancy to find out what homeowners can do to help bats.



Brown long-eared bat © Tom Marshall

### Tell us something amazing about bats!

Paul: "Bats are the ninja hunters of the night! Echolocation allows them to hunt relentlessly for insects in the dark - a tiny pipistrelle weighing just five grams can eat hundreds of insects in just one night."

Jon: "They are also a vital link in the urban food chain. Pipistrelles have colonised modern urban environments so well that even peregrine falcons have turned to them as a food source, amazingly adapting to nocturnal hunting using street lighting."

### So why are they so well-protected under law?

Jon: "Like newts and badgers, bats have been protected under law since the 1980s, due to their population suffering a massive decline through habitat loss and changes in land management practices."

Paul: "Most species also only have one offspring a year, which leaves their populations really vulnerable if a maternity roost is disturbed. Although approximately half the UK's bat population is made up of pipistrelles, of the 17 species found in the UK, many others are not doing so well."

### I'm doing works to my house: what can I do to help bats?

Jon: "Every species of bat in the UK has at some point been recorded roosting in a building - and because the penalty for disturbing a roost is up to £5,000 per bat, it's worth finding out whether you have bats before re-roofing, doing a loft or barn conversion, or pruning a veteran tree."

Paul: "We really recommend that people have a bat survey done as soon as they start to think about planning permission. It's easier to introduce tweaks to the design if you know about bats and other protected species from the outset, and it has less impact on budgets and timescales than if it comes as a surprise later down the line. Local authorities will often ask for surveys to be carried out, but if you have missed the survey window (May to September) by the time they ask, then this can set you back months."

### How do I know if I have bats?

Paul: "Very often, you won't. Bats are unobtrusive residents and they change roosts regularly, so it's easy to end up disturbing a roost without really knowing. It's also impossible to tell which species you have just by observing them in flight."

Jon: "Studies show that a common pipistrelle bat's feeding radius is on average two kilometres. So in urban areas like Sheffield or Rotherham, if you see a bat on the wing, it is very likely to be roosting in the city too. And it's not just the older buildings that house bats: I've found bats roosting in pre-fab buildings, beneath flat roofs and even once within the plastic cover of a burglar alarm box. Pipistrelles can get into holes the width of a pencil."

### What should I do if I have seen a bat?

Jon: "If you see bats around your home it's really important to report it to the South Yorkshire Bat Group, because it helps us identify and care for areas where there are important clusters of maternity roosts, and protect bats in the future."



## Paul and Jon's tips for bat-friendly home improvements

**Plan ahead** Commission a bat survey at the outset, preferably in spring to plan in a summer survey.

### Provide bat boxes or bricks

Design around existing roosts where possible, or install bat bricks or boxes to give bats places to roost and hibernate.

**Introduce feeding areas** Bats rely on having a plentiful supply of insects, so consider planting broadleaf trees or night-flowering species such as honeysuckle.

**Keep holes open** Bats can use any small cracks or crevices for roosting and hibernation so always be wary when repairing pointing or roof tiles.

### Keep lighting to a minimum

Bats are affected by lighting and some bat species will actively avoid lit areas. Lighting also draws moths and insects away from darker areas, reducing the available prey for bats.

## What next?

Get more seasonal wildlife gardening tips at [wildaboutgardens.org.uk](http://wildaboutgardens.org.uk)

Join in the Trust's wildlife gardening workshops [wildsheffield.com/whats-on](http://wildsheffield.com/whats-on)

Find out more about bats on a Wildscapes summer course at [wildscapes.eu/training](http://wildscapes.eu/training)

Report a sighting to South Yorkshire Bat Group via [sybatgroup@googlemail.com](mailto:sybatgroup@googlemail.com) or call the National Bat Helpline on **0345 130 0228**

Ask Wildscapes about bat surveys at [info@wildscapes.co.uk](mailto:info@wildscapes.co.uk) or call **0114 263 4335**.

You're invited to our

# AGM

21 September 2017, 6pm - 9pm

We would like to invite all members to attend our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 21 September from 6pm, at 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF. We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker on the night will be *The One Show's* natural history star Mike Dilger.

In 'The Trials and Tribulations of a Natural History Presenter' Mike takes an illuminating and sideways look at what it takes to produce cheap and cheerful wildlife television. Featuring some clips from *The One Show*, Mike reveals what often goes on behind the scenes on location and spills the beans on everything you wanted to know about TV presenting but were afraid to ask...

Mike is an ecologist and natural history TV presenter and is probably best known for being the wildlife reporter on the BBC programme *The One Show*. Mike has Sheffield roots on his dad's side and spent an extensive period working in Vietnam, Tanzania and Ecuador as a field biologist, before returning to the UK.

For more information and to book your place, go to [wildsheffield.com/AGM2017](http://wildsheffield.com/AGM2017)

**6pm** Tea and coffee served. Please come along and meet staff informally to find out more about our work over the last year.

**6.30pm** Chair's welcome and brief review of the Trust's Year 16/17. Keynote speaker: Mike Dilger.

**7.40pm** Buffet

**8pm** AGM Business (for SRWT members only): introductions and apologies; minutes of the last meeting; matters arising; review of 2014-15; financial report for 2014-15; appointment of auditors; election of Trustees.

**9pm** End



## Ever thought about becoming a Trustee?

Each year we seek new Trustees to join our Board of 13, bringing with them the skills and dedication needed so that we can continue to protect local wildlife and help people care for and connect with nature.

As well as an enthusiasm and passion for wildlife, we need people with the right skills to help govern the Trust and, in particular, with professional expertise in areas such as HR, fundraising and business development. Some experience of working in a decision-making group is vital and a good local knowledge of Sheffield and Rotherham is of great benefit.

You would need to be able to commit to attending the Annual General Meeting (usually held in September) and at least four Board meetings per year, which require some preparatory work.

To find out more, go to [wildsheffield.com/Become-a-Trustee](http://wildsheffield.com/Become-a-Trustee)

To register your interest or for an informal chat about the role please phone our Chief Executive, Liz Ballard, on **0114 279 2658** or email [l.ballard@wildsheffield.com](mailto:l.ballard@wildsheffield.com)

To find out more about our current Trustees, go to [wildsheffield.com/who-we-are/our-board-trustees](http://wildsheffield.com/who-we-are/our-board-trustees)

## Your 30 Days Wild in pictures...



Exploring Greno Woods  
@natureismyxbox



BBC Radio Sheffield spot something blue!  
@KatherineCowan



Micro habitats at Handsworth Grange  
@HGCSC



Taking action for street trees  
@stephkoko

## Be social...

share your sightings with us online

