

# Your local wildlife news



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West Suffolk Sites  
Manager  
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## **BRADFIELD WOODS** 01449 737996



**Giles  
Cawston**  
Woodlands  
Warden



**Joanne  
Atkins**  
Wild  
Learning  
Officer

 For more wildlife news, follow the team on facebook:

**Bradfield Woods –  
Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

## **Mickle Mere**

After a dry summer, Will Cranstoun explains why he (and west Suffolk's wildlife) is hoping for a wet winter on the reserve.

As the temperatures held hot and steady over the summer, the main lagoon completely dried out and is still awaiting rain to bring water levels up. As the lagoon is entirely dependent on excess water levels from the Black Bourn River spilling out onto the floodplain, we are also at the mercy of what happens in the wider river catchment. Despite the dry conditions, lapwing have seemed to have fared well, with three pairs managing to fledge young whilst many other birds have predominantly left the site only popping in now and again. Little egret, kestrel and greylag geese flocks could still be seen

from time to time feeding on the higher and drier ground whilst bats foraged through the willows across the meadows.

As we move further into winter the lagoon remains dry, giving us a valuable window to carry out some essential habitat management work around the main lagoon. We have been able to cut some of the fen and manage the willow in order to keep certain vistas open, both for wading wildfowl and visitors to the reserve's hide.

We hope that the weather turns wet enough to at least fill part of the lagoon thus continuing to provide sanctuary for wintering wildfowl through winter into spring.

## **Bradfield Woods**

Winter sees the coppice season in full swing at Bradfield. Woodlands Warden Giles Cawston talks about what is a special time to be in the woods.

I would like to start by taking this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the volunteers, interns, voluntary wardens and staff that help with the management of the West Suffolk Woodlands: you only need to quickly visit all the reserves to see how well they have responded to your hard work. I have just checked the records and on average the volunteer teams do 60-100hrs each week and that's just in the woods... your cheque is in the post!

The intensity of work in the wood really builds in late autumn, with the annual coppice season beginning on 1 November. Coppicing is an ancient form of woodland management that relies on the resilience of our native broadleaf tree species to vigorously regrow after being cut during the winter months. Although, as I write, we are working from first light to last, it is a special time to be in the woods and

continues a great Bradfield tradition.

The hardest thing about coppicing is knowing what to cut and what to leave to become future "standards" (the larger trees in the woods). The first job is to cut the hazel understory, which is bundled up and sold as coppice product. The next job is the felling of the larger timber trees which we cut and split into firewood, this is then sold during the spring and summer. The last job is the building of the dead hedge to protect the precious spring regrowth from deer, rabbit and hare.

Coppicing has been carried out in Bradfield Woods for at least 800 years and working, or even just walking, does make you feel connected to all that social history. But even better than that, we also know by managing the wood in this way we are helping the wildlife that depends upon this unique habitat.

## **Your most local reserves**

Black Bourn Valley ● Bonny Wood ● Bradfield Woods

Bulls Wood ● Combs Wood

Directions & maps

[suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://suffolkwildlifetrust.org)



# STOWMARKET WILDLIFE GROUP NEWS

Stowmarket Wildlife Group is part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's county volunteer network. Led by local Trust members, the group organises events, talks and wildlife activities and raises money for the Trust, to help safeguard our wild and beautiful county.



## WHAT'S ON

Wednesday 27 February 7.30pm

### Talk: CREATING WILDNESS

With Michael Strand

Creating wildness is a new approach to conservation management in Suffolk. Michael will also update us on the development of Carlton Marshes and other reserves.

Wednesday 24 April 7.30pm

### URBAN BUZZ IPSWICH

With David Dowding

The town has already come a long way in its journey to improve the local open spaces and parks so that the public can gain more enjoyment from them. David from Buglife will tell us about Urban Buzz, a project that brings an exciting new twist to this with the creation of lots more pollinator habitat, colour and life in key areas across the town.

Saturday 18 May 10am

### BONNY WOOD WALK

With Peter Holborn

Join us on a walk led by Peter and discover the wonders of Bonny Wood at Barking Tye. You may see wood anemone, woodruff and herb-paris. Orchids are also typical, including early-purple orchids, lesser twayblade and common spotted-orchid. Birds are also plentiful at this time of year, with melodies from summer migrants such as blackcap and willow warbler mingling with the song of resident species.

All talks are held at the Village Hall, Church Road, Stowupland IP14 4BQ. Entry £2.50. Walks are free but donations are welcome. Booking essential. For full description of events, visit [suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events](http://suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events)

Wednesday 26 June 7.30pm

### RURAL AND WILDLIFE CRIME

With PC Lee Andrews-Pearce

Wildlife crimes can take many forms and it can be difficult to know what constitutes a crime. They can range from organised crimes (such as the trade in endangered species) to people shooting at birds with air guns. Lee will explain the role of Suffolk Constabulary's Rural and Wildlife Crime Team and how they are dealing with the challenges.

Wednesday 25 September 7.30pm

### BUZZARDS with Zoe Smith

The common buzzard is now the most common bird of prey in Britain. Join us to take a deeper look into the lives of these beautiful birds and find out how they have become so successful. We will look at identification, diet, nest sites and the overall ecology of buzzards.

Wednesday 30 October 7.30pm

### PESTS AND DISEASES OF TREES

With Sid Cooper

Sid from the Forestry Commission will give an overview of the major pests and diseases currently affecting our woodlands and their management, what pests and diseases may be coming next, and what we can do to prevent tree pests and diseases from getting established.

Plus sale of Christmas cards and gifts.

Wednesday 27 November 7.30pm

### GLOW-WORMS with Tim Gardiner

plus WILDLIFE QUIZ and RAFFLE

The Glow-worm is not actually a worm, but a beetle. Males look like typical beetles, but the nightly glow of a female is unmistakable. It is one of Britain's most adored, yet mysterious insects. Glow-worms face many modern day threats and challenges affecting their future existence.

## YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP CONTACTS

### NEWS & EVENTS

John Thompson  
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[swtstowmarket@gmail.com](mailto:swtstowmarket@gmail.com)

### VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

#### Combs Wood

Keven Boyce  
01449 676610

#### Bonny Wood

Peter Holborn  
01449 736683

## MAGAZINES

Delivering your Suffolk Wildlife magazine by hand saves the Trust thousands of pounds each year. We always welcome extra volunteer deliverers. If you would like to help, please contact:

Hella Crosby  
01449 721226  
or

Sam Grange  
Membership Manager  
01473 890089  
[membership@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:membership@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

If you would like to have a copy of the current newsletter or programme, these can be downloaded from [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/wildlifegroups](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/wildlifegroups) or by emailing us on [swtstowmarket@gmail.com](mailto:swtstowmarket@gmail.com)



## Volunteer locally

- Reserve work parties are a great way to enjoy your local reserves. Call Will or Giles for details.
- How about helping with events or exploring nature with children? Chat to Jo Atkins.
- Or join the Stowmarket Group team. Go along to any of the group events or give them a call.

 Suffolk  
Wildlife  
Trust

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