

Your local wildlife news



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 For more wildlife news, follow the team on facebook: **Suffolk Wildlife Trust – Coastal Reserves**

Hen Reedbeds

After a winter of restoration and hide building, spring sees the reedbed burst into life. Alan Miller explains what to look and listen for as the weather warms.

During the winter work to create more open water and reshape the islands was completed. This has improved the site for wildlife and also for visitors, providing better views from the new Suffolk AONB-funded hide. The hide is already being well used and the link to the circular walks around Reydon Marshes is complete.

May sees the reedbed return to life, changing from winter brown into bright green, with migrant birds joining the clamour of resident species. Look out too for dragonflies, particularly Norfolk hawkers, as they zip over reed and water.

The grey herons have once more taken up residence in the reedbed and can be seen busy rearing their broods. This is the only ground nesting colony in the county

with upwards of a dozen nests creating a busy breeding season.

Hen Reedbeds was created to safeguard the bittern and this month is one of the best to hear them. Listen for the deep booming of the males, best heard early morning or at dusk as they announce their territories. With patience the birds can be seen flying low over the reeds as they move to feed in the various pools.

Marsh harriers, rarer than golden eagles in UK, yet we see them as an everyday occurrence on the Suffolk coast, will be busy nesting with at least three pairs on site and bearded tits appear to be recovering from last years Beast from the East which reduced numbers in the spring.

Reydon Wood

Butterflies and migrant birds will soon be arriving in Reydon Wood. Alan Miller looks back at a winter of coppicing and ahead to what promises to be a spectacular year for bluebells.

The winter coppicing programme was completed with the plots now secured from the nibbling of deer by dead hedges and builders fence panels. These are left in place for two years so that the coppice stools can grow out of reach of the deer and then moved to the next cut plots. The dry winter has meant the paths are in good shape for the large numbers of visitors that arrive in May to see the carpets of bluebells throughout the wood.

The nuthatches that first bred in the wood two years ago can be heard as they move about the wood their loud calls announcing their presence. These are

joined by the migrants as they arrive back from sunnier climes, the commonest being the blackcap and chiffchaffs followed by garden warblers which test the ears of even experienced birders in separating them from blackcaps.

The widened rides should prove attractive to butterflies and look out for silver washed fritillaries which are becoming more common locally, usually on the wing from late June.

When visiting during the bluebell period please park in the car park considerably to avoid blocking the entrance to the farmer's field.

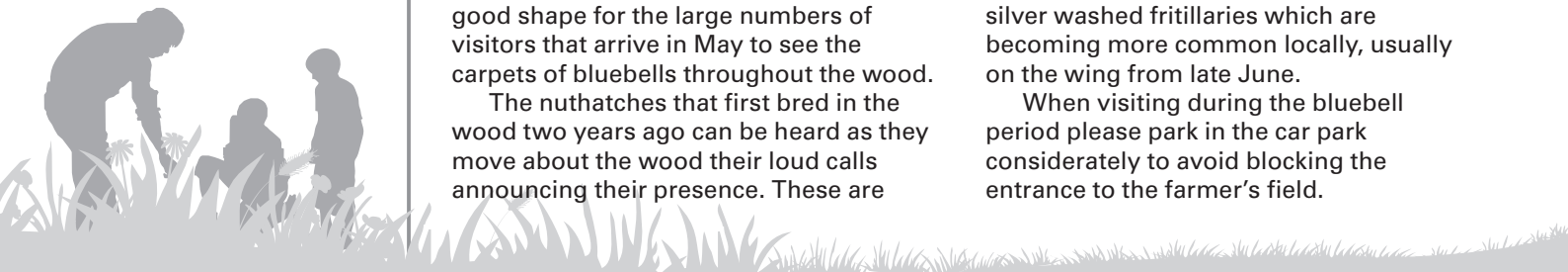
Your most local reserves

Carlton Marshes ● Church Farm Marshes ● Darsham Marshes

Dingle Marshes ● Dunwich Forest ● Hen Reedbeds ● Reydon Wood

Directions & maps

suffolkwildlifetrust.org



SOUTHWOLD WILDLIFE GROUP NEWS

Southwold 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.

GROUP NEWS

Our talks this winter have been well supported and have covered a wide range of subjects. We are always very pleased to have any suggestions of good speakers or subjects that members would like us to consider organising. Please contact anyone on the committee with your ideas.

In November Duncan Sweeting gave a most informative talk on bats which everyone enjoyed. He was able to explain how to help to conserve these fascinating creatures and he outlined the many ways the law helps to protect this species. He also brought a collection of bat boxes to show us.

Tony Brown brought a wonderful collection of his photographs of the River Waveney, from source to sea, for our January talk. Seeing this beautiful river, through all the seasons, was just what was needed for a cold January evening.

Creating Wildness was the title of Michael Strand's illustrated talk in February. Michael described what Suffolk Wildlife Trust is aiming to achieve with our vision for the future of wildlife in Suffolk.

We hope many of you will come and join us for any of the events we have planned for the summer.

As always I want to give a heartfelt thank you to the Committee Members, and their partners, as well as to all the others who do so much to keep our local group running. We are always interested to hear from anyone who feels they could help us in anyway.

Terry Payne

WHAT'S ON

Saturday 8 June 10.30am

Walk: North Cove reserve

With George Batchelor.

Meet in the reserve car park, Wade Hall Lane, Barnby.

OS map reference TM 471 905.

Friday 12 July 10am

Walk: Carlton Marshes reserve

With Katy Runacres.

Meet in the reserve car park, Burnt Hill Lane, Carlton Colville.

OS map reference TM 508 920.

Saturday 24 August 10.30am

Walk: Birdwatching at Blythburgh

With John Nottage.

Meet in the car park opposite the White Hart. OS map reference TM 452 755.

Thursday 19 September 7.30pm

Talk: Walking the Suffolk coast & rivers from Lowestoft to Cattawade

With Pam Evans.

Southwold Arts Centre, Cumberland Road, Southwold IP18 6JP.

All welcome, no need to book. Admission cost £3 including refreshments.

The walks are open to all and are free of charge, no need to book. If you would like to join us on a walk but do not have your own transport, give Sally a call to arrange a lift.

Carlton Marshes



YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP CONTACTS

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VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

Reydon Woods

(& sometimes Hen Reedbeds)

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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:

Sam Grange

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suffolkwildlifetrust.org

FINDING US FOR EVENTS

Talks and the AGM will be in Southwold Arts Centre, Cumberland Rd, Southwold IP18 6JP.

All welcome, no need to book. Admission cost for the talks is £3 and includes refreshments. There is no charge for entry to the AGM or for attendance on the walk.

Volunteer locally

- Reserve work parties are a great way to enjoy your local reserves. Call Alan.
- How about helping with events or exploring nature with children? Call Bev.
- Or join the Southwold Group team. Go along to any of the group events or give Sally a call.

**Suffolk
Wildlife
Trust**

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