



Your local wildlife news

Alde Valley 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.

BLUEBELL CARPET

Spring is with us and for me one of the first major signs is the lovely carpet of bluebells at Captain's Wood Nature Reserve.

Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) Common names: English bluebell, British bluebell, English harebell, wild hyacinth, cuckoo's boots, granfer griggles, witches' thimbles, lady's nightcap, fairy flower, cra'tae (crow's toes).

Enchanting and iconic, bluebells are a sure sign spring is in full swing. The violet glow of a bluebell wood is an incredible wildflower spectacle. Bluebells are unmistakable bell-shaped perennial herbs. They spend the majority of their time underground as bulbs, emerging, often in droves, to flower from April onwards. Their leaves are narrow, around 7mm to 25mm wide and 45cm in length. They are strap-shaped, smooth and hairless, with a pointed tip. Usually deep violet-blue in colour, bluebells are bell-shaped with six

petals and up-turned tips. These sweet-smelling flowers nod or droop to one side of the flowering stem (known as an inflorescence) and have creamy, white-coloured pollen inside. Some flowers can be white or pink. Up to 20 flowers can grow on one inflorescence.



The native species is not to be confused with the Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), which is very similar in appearance.

However, Spanish bluebells grow upright, with the flowers all around the stem, not drooping to one side like the British bluebell. Hybrid bluebell (*Hyacinthoides x massartiana*) is a mix of the British and Spanish bluebell. It is often very similar in appearance to our native bluebell and is considered by some as a threat to the native species by out-competing it and diluting the gene pool.

Paul Wilson

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

After writing the piece on bluebells and discovering that crow's toes is an alternative name, it reminded me of a few typed sheets of paper I came across tucked into a book on East Anglian folklore. The sheets were compiled by a Dr G D Heathcote of Bury St Edmunds in 1975 and comprise a collection of dialect names for various creatures and plants in both Norfolk and Suffolk. I have set out some of the most unusual of the Suffolk names, and it would be interesting to hear from Trust members who might care to comment on derivations and possibly add some more unusual names.

Paul Wilson

**Bullfinch
Chaffinch
Fieldfare
Heron
House Sparrow
Long tailed tit
Owl
Wryneck
Tadpole
Ladybird
Snail
Stickleback
Molehill
Yew berries
Viola tricolor
Narcissus**

**Cock Ulf
Polyspink
Dow fuller
Marsh turkey
Chookey
Pudden-e-poke
Jilly hooter
Cuckoo's mate
Polliwiggle
Bushy barnabee
Hodnedod
Tantickle
Hobbly dobbie
Snotty gobbles
Tittle-my-fancy
Egg and bacon flower**



Be part of Team Wilder

Research shows that if just one person in every four takes up a cause, this can be enough to change the minds and behaviour of the majority. Imagine what we could achieve if that cause was nature: if a quarter of people in Suffolk created more space for wildlife to bring back what we've lost.

**#Team
Wilder**

suffolkwildlifetrust.org

WORKING TO IMPROVE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Getting the best outcomes for Suffolk's nature from major infrastructure projects has become increasingly important in recent years as the number of big energy schemes in the county has continued to grow.

These Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) have their own planning process and can present challenges for protecting wildlife because their benefits are often seen as outweighing any negative impacts they might have on the environment.

This means that even legally protected wildlife sites and habitats do not always emerge unscathed. Consequently, Sizewell C will see the destruction of a significant area of the Sizewell Marshes Nature Reserve. The construction of offshore wind farms can impact on marine wildlife, for which the North Seas Special Area of Conservation was created.

Meanwhile the landfall locations being proposed on the Suffolk Coast for import cables bringing electricity from offshore wind farms, risk affecting internationally important wildlife

sites. We need the energy from offshore wind farms if we are to meet future needs, but we also need to ensure that the new infrastructure we build to do this protects wildlife.

An essential part of achieving this is assessing the environmental impacts of different strategic options. We have been pushing for greater consideration and coordination between energy NSIPs in Suffolk by coordinating the different projects so the impacts on wildlife can be minimised as far as possible.

Under pressure from local campaigners, National Grid has agreed to review the alternatives to the currently proposed Grid reinforcements and offshore wind farm connections in East Anglia. It is crucial that this review assesses the environmental impacts of the different options on land and at sea to ensure we end up with the best solution for wildlife and people.

Rupert Masefield, Planning and Advocacy Manager

WHAT'S ON

Tuesday in May TBC

Walk: TREE IDENTIFICATION

Location tbc. £5.

Tuesday in June TBC

Walk: SIZEWELL

Meet at 10am at Sizewell Beach Café, Leiston, IP16 4UH. £5.

Tuesday 16 July 10.30am-5.30pm

Event: WILDLIFE OPEN GARDEN

Priors Oak, Leiston Road, Aldeburgh IP15 5QE.

Tuesday 12 September 7.30pm

Talk: ESSEX BEAVER PROJECT

Leiston United Reform Church, 45A High Street, Leiston IP16 4EL.

£4 including raffle ticket and refreshments.

Tuesday 10 October 7.30pm

Talk: AN ARCTIC SUMMER

Leiston United Reform Church, 45A High Street, Leiston IP16 4EL.

£4 including raffle ticket and refreshments.

Donations welcome. For more details visit:
suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events

INTRODUCING YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP TEAM

We thought it might be an idea if we introduced ourselves to you, our local supporters. Most of us are usually around at events, and are recognisable by our name badges, but I've put together our names in alphabetical order as an aide memoire.

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|----------------------|---|
| Archie Bhatia | Events organiser & IT link for speakers |
| Colin Westney | Chairman |
| Deborah Dann | Publicity & magazine co-ordinator |
| Ian Shaw | Treasurer & financial adviser |
| Marie Adams | Refreshments supervisor |
| Paul Wilson | Publicity & newsletter |
| Sheila Hales | Events organiser & speaker liaison |
| Steve Massey | Wildlife walk organiser |

Don't hesitate to talk to us if you have any observations or ideas.

Colin Westney

YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP CONTACTS

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MAGAZINES

If you would like to help our magazine volunteer delivery team in the future please contact:

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Membership Manager

01473 890089

membership@

suffolkwildlifetrust.org

WILD YOUR INBOX

Would you like to hear from us by email? Sign up at bit.ly/SWTemails

YOUR LOCAL WARDEN



Andrew Excell

South-East
Suffolk Coast
Sites Manager
01394 411019

YOUR WILD LEARNING OFFICER



Emma Keeble

Wild
Learning
Officer
01394 380113

Your most local reserves

Alde Mudflats ● Blaxhall Common ● Captain's Wood ● Framlingham Mere
Sizewell Belts ● Snape Marshes ● Hazlewood Marshes



**Suffolk
Wildlife Trust**

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