



Your local wildlife news

Felixstowe 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.

THOSE BIG OAK TREES

Firstly, a reminder that our weekly Friday evening walks start again on 5 May. All details of these walks and their locations can be found on the Facebook page of the SWT Felixstowe group. We travel all over Suffolk and usually end up at a local hostelry which rounds off the evening very nicely. Also, we would love to welcome you to the annual Trimley Marshes Nature Reserve Open Day, this year being held on Sunday 28 May. Friendly experts will be on hand to answer any questions and to assist with bird identification as well as bird-ringing demonstrations. There will be refreshments available so do pop the date in your calendar and come along.

I'm looking out at the oak tree in my garden, now in full leaf and reflecting on how many acorns I noticed which were very distorted. I subsequently discovered that this is caused by a tiny wasp, the oak gall wasp, which lays its eggs inside the acorns as a place of relative safety and instant source of food for the voracious grubs which, when hatched, secrete a chemical that deforms the acorn into fantastic shapes.

A tawny owl has been sitting on the corner of our roof gazing watchfully down the garden. It makes a lovely silhouette against the night sky. A pair of buzzards which have been regularly seen circling over Felixstowe for some time now, have taken to sitting on the fencing which surrounds the building site located on the edge of town. They don't seem to be bothered by the noise of the

machinery or the traffic for that matter. These majestic raptors are now relatively common across Suffolk, audibly identifiable by their high-pitched shrieks and calls as they circle upon warm thermals arising from our built environment.

Warmer days mean more insect life. One of my favourite insect groups are the butterflies. This year I saw my first one, a red admiral, on 13 February. Let's hope they have a more successful year, along with all the other invertebrates which seem to have been greatly depleted over recent years.

One piece of excellent news is that for the first time, I believe, a little egret has been spotted in the Felixstowe Spa Gardens, probably hoping to empty the pond of its fish. Look out for it on your walks in these lengthening, warmer days – a white, heron-like bird standing half a metre or so in height and likely to be statuesque in its motion.

Jenny Bugg



BILL STEVENSON



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

MONTHLY TALKS

Sunday 28 May From 10am

Event: SPRING SPECTACULAR OPEN DAY

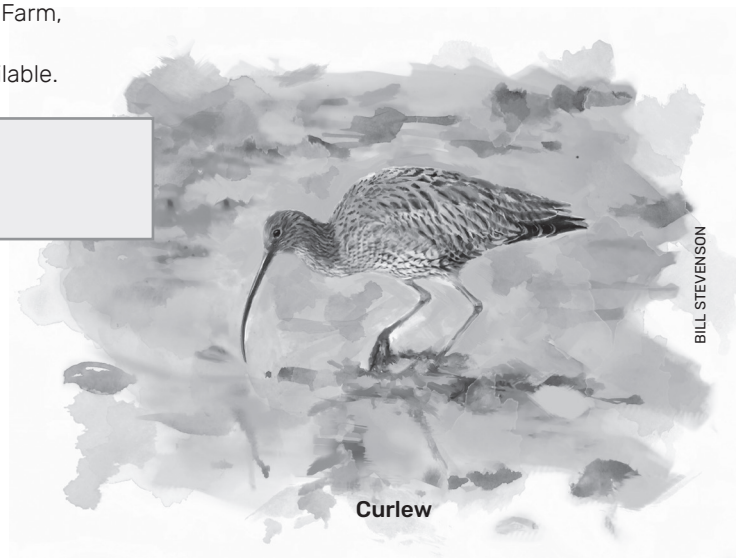
Trimley Marshes Nature Reserve.

Park and meet bus at Searson's Farm,

Cordy's Lane.

Donations and refreshment available.

For more details visit:
suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events
or call Dave Langlois.



Your most local reserves

Levington Lagoon ● Newbourne Springs ● Trimley Marshes

Hutchisons Meadow ● Bromeswell Green ● Foxburrow

YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP CONTACTS

David Langlois
01394 210535

MAGAZINES

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

Nic Martin
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 WILDER COMMUNITIES MANAGER



Lucy Shepherd
Wildier
Communities
Manager
01473 890089

 For more wildlife news, follow the team on facebook:
[SWTFelixstowe](https://www.facebook.com/SWTFelixstowe)



**Suffolk
Wildlife Trust**

suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Registered charity no 262777