

# Newsletter 2013

Driving through the gusty grey early morning and bucketing rain on Saturday October 12th, I severely had my doubts that tractor rides, BBQs or bird ringing would be taking place at Wild About Norfolk that day, and that the general populace would be far too sensible than to venture out of doors. However, after being interviewed on Radio Norfolk enticing the masses to come to Easton College, the weather took a turn for the better and I said a quiet thanks to whoever might be listening.

After a mad evening arranging exhibitors' tables the day before with lots of other helpers, 44 of them arrived with marvellous contraptions of all shapes and sizes, fascinating displays and colourful flora and fauna in tow. Doors opened officially at 10am and a steady trickle, then a fair sized flow of the Great British Public came along to discover the delights of what the day had to offer including a reporter from the Eastern Daily Press. We recorded around 900 individuals coming through the main entrance, not accounting for ones who found their way in via other routes.

There was an exciting programme of wildlife walks, bug hunts and tours to see the college's collection of animals including snake handling, which could also be done on the Norfolk Amphibian and Reptile Group stand, where Rollo the Python made his second appearance. A mischief of field mice, a busyness of ferrets, a creep of tortoises, a parliament of owls and a soar of falcons (no, not exaggerating) made up a fantastic menagerie so that we could understand a bit more about these creatures and look out for them in the future.

We welcomed back the bird ringing group from the University of East Anglia where folk could see the amazing details of birds in the hand and learn why ringing is so important in finding out more about the habits of our local feathered friends so we can look after them better.



*Friendly RSPB tiger/ volunteer*



*Handling Rollo the Python*



*Not what she expected to find?*



# Newsletter 2013

New this year we showed a series of short talks and films held in the lecture theatre, which were very engaging and of high quality. Although attendance was unfortunately only mediocre, audiences who were lucky enough to be present were treated to stroking live Barn Owls and participate in interesting discussions about bats, dragonflies and more... Next year we plan to have a tannoy system announcing these and other timetabled activities throughout the day. The talks which we held this year are listed below.

**Go Wild in your School Grounds – Nature’s Mini Minds**, RSPB  
**The Peregrines of Norwich Cathedral**, Hawk & Owl Trust  
**Some Bees of Norfolk**, Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists’ Society  
**Dragonflies - From the Beginning**, British Dragonfly Society  
**“Hook-nosed sea pig” the life of the Atlantic grey seal**, RSPB  
**Rehabilitation of Wildlife**, Seal and Bird Rescue Trust  
**Bats, Bats Everywhere!** The Big Norwich Bat Group  
**Norfolk Wildlife Trust’s Wild Norfolk**, Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Wild About Norfolk welcomed a few new comers this year, including WildSounds wildlife books and multimedia guides, Green Solar Footprint (plus solar panel), Seal & Bird Rescue Trust (plus birds), Norfolk Tortoise Club (plus tortoises), Wroxham Barns Junior Farm (plus Barney the great big cuddly sheep), Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Norfolk Young Farmers & Countrysiders.

A great time was had by all I think, and there were quite a few comments overheard from people leaving saying that they wished that they had come earlier as there was so much to see and do. Fantastic job to all involved.

We would really value any thoughts, comments and/or feedback you may have from the event. Please contact Ellen Chestney at [ellenchestney@hushmail.com](mailto:ellenchestney@hushmail.com)



*RSPCA stand*



*Allowing close up views of a bird we need to look after*

**Join us again in 2014!**  
 Next year’s event will be at Easton College on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October.**  
 Look forward to seeing you there!

# Excellent Exhibitors

Thanks so much to all 44 exhibitors this year who made Wild About Norfolk 2013 buzz with energy and excitement – you all did a brilliant job of providing super interesting activities for everyone. There were more than a few comments from folk as they left about not having enough time to see and do what was on offer, so really well done! We hope that you found the day worthwhile and we really hope to see you next year.

Below is the final list of exhibitors who participated in Wild About Norfolk 2013.

- Bergh Apton Conservation Trust
- Blofield & District Conservation Group
- British Dragonfly Society
- Broadland and South Norfolk Council Energy Team
- Broads Authority
- Butterfly Conservation
- Cliff Maidstone
- Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservations Authority
- Easton College
- Fakenham Area Conservation Team
- Family Learning, Peter Walton
- Friends of Gressenhall, Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse
- Green Solar Footprint
- Hawk & Owl Trust
- Norfolk Amphibian and Reptile Group (NARG)
- Norfolk Barbestelle Study Group
- Norfolk Beekeepers' Association
- Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service
- Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
- Norfolk Conservation Corps
- Norfolk County Council (Norfolk Trails)
- Norfolk County Council Masters Composters
- Norfolk Horticulturist Society
- Norfolk National Trust Volunteers (NNTV)
- Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society
- Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative
- Norfolk Ramblers Association
- Norfolk Tortoise Club
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Norfolk Young Farmers & Countrysiders
- North Norfolk District Council
- Pensthorpe Wildlife Gardens
- Rob Wilson Photos
- RSPB Eastern Region
- RSPB Local Group
- RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre
- Seal & Bird Rescue Trust
- SeaSearch East
- Sylvanus- (Woodlice) Archaeological, Natural History & Illustration Service
- UEA Bird Ringing Group
- Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society
- WildSounds
- Wroxham Barns Junior Farm
- Wymondham Nature Group (WyNG)



*Deep in bee discussions with Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society*



*Fun info screen on the Inshore Fisheries & Conservations Authority stand*



*Beavers kept busy by the Broads Authority*



*RSPB face painters were kept very busy*



# Thanks so much for helping!

A massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who made Wild About Norfolk 2013 a complete success. From filling up bird feeders in the Easton College woodland dell months in advance to ensure that the bird ringing demonstration could take place, to organising press releases, to holding your ground when wave upon wave of excited children wanting to make bird boxes descend on you – you are all stars!

Helpful and enthusiastic individuals from assorted organisations contributed to the organisation of Wild About Norfolk 2013.

Coordinator: Ellen Chestney; independent volunteer

Exhibitor Coordinator: Tessa Needham; RSPB Local Group

Treasurer: Carol Artis; RSPB Local Group

Publicity & General Support:

Martyn Davey, Jerry Kinsley, Erika Johnson, Natasha Waller, Anna Bennett; Easton College

Eilish Rothney, Jennifer Ramsay; RSPB

Annabel Hill, Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Iain Barr; University of East Anglia

David & Christine Cannon, Roy and Lynda Quantrell; RSPB Local Group

A special thank you also goes to all the kind people who helped on the day as we couldn't have run it without you! These include volunteers from the RSPB Local Group, Hawk & Owl Trust and Easton College and personal friends of the Coordinator who were bullied into helping...

One of the most popular activities is getting children to 'make' a bird box – many, many thanks to the inmates of Weyland Prison who actually do all the work making up all the packs and to David Cannon for organising it.

We are very grateful to our sponsors The John Jarrold Trust and Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership again this year for making Wild About Norfolk 2013 possible.



*Wild About Norfolk Tombola*



*Give a bird a home!*

## Sponsors of Wild About Norfolk 2013:

JARROLD  
The John Jarrold Trust

nbp  
Norfolk Biodiversity  
Partnership

