



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 68 (September 2017)

Fly Agaric, Sandringham House Park, Norfolk
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Welcome to our September e-bulletin!

We are now well into autumn, there are still chances for **GETTING INVOLVED** with volunteering at Holt Hall, helping record mistletoe and taking the National Hedgehog Housing census. Go to the many **EVENTS** including Wild About Norfolk and Apple Day, which are coming up soon and see all the workshops on offer as well!

In **Local NEWS** the little tern has had a successful breeding season in Blakeney Nature Reserve and in **National NEWS** Asian hornets have been found in Devon! In **International NEWS** find out how wild animals are affected in hurricanes.

Not enough to hear from us once a month? Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkBiodiversityInformationService/>) and Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/NorfolkBIS>).

Happy reading!

Don't forget, you can submit your wildlife records online at <http://nbis.org.uk/AllSpeciesSurvey> or email them to us at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk. Our data protection policy can be found on our website at <http://www.nbis.org.uk/privacy-policy>.

It doesn't have to be a rare or unusual species – recording common and widespread species are just as important. From blackbirds to oak trees, hedgehogs to ladybirds, let's see how many species can be recorded in 2017!

Natural Environment Team
Community and Environmental Services,
Norfolk County Council
nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

Please do email us at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk if you have any news or events that you would like us to feature in the next or coming issues. And do feel free to forward to anyone you feel would also be interested.

You can download this e-bulletin as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/E-BulletinSep2017.pdf> You can also download past e-bulletins as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/newsletterse-bulletins>

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Local NEWS

Anglers' delight as algal blooms breakthrough highlights innovative science

Trials carried out in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads National Park have shown that controlled concentrations of hydrogen peroxide can kill the deadly *Prymnesium parvum* (golden algae).

<https://tinyurl.com/y8tmhmuf>

Roadside Nature Reserve in north Norfolk now home to dozens of species of wildlife

Sustead Common Nature Reserve in North Norfolk has opened. The land has been leased to conservation charity, Felbeck Trust, by the National Trust and North Norfolk District Council. Thanks to £3500 from Big Society Money and 500 hours of volunteering work the trust has created a Roadside Natural Reserve with a permissive path and abundant wildlife. Felbeck also manages the adjacent Surveyor's Common and is in negotiations to buy Spurrells' Wood (hoping to raise £25,000). <https://tinyurl.com/y98cxfcn>

A tern for the better, as Blakeney has successful breeding season

The little tern breeding season has produced 56 chicks fledged which is the largest amount since 2011. These birds migrate from Africa each year and nest in coastal locations around the UK. They have been declining due to climate change, loss of habitat, food availability and disturbance. <https://tinyurl.com/y8a2v8yj>

Success from Norfolk Coast Bioblitz

In July there was the first ever Norfolk Coast Bioblitz involving the National Trust, North Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Natural England and Holkham Estate, supported by the Norfolk Coast Partnership and NBIS. Species were identified and recorded over 2 days. Hundreds of volunteers turned out to help and recorded over 2000 records and 1000 different species. See Wild Skys Newsletter for more information. <https://tinyurl.com/y8hpxiy9>

Try a new book out: Trees in England, Management and disease since 1600

This new book was co-authored by Tom Williamson, a Professor of Landscape History at the UEA, Gerry Barnes MBE, a research fellow at UEA and Toby Pillatt, a Research Associate in the Department of Archaeology at University of Sheffield. Buy your copy online at www.UHPress.co.uk

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National NEWS

Asian hornets found in North Devon!

This non-native species has been found near Woolacombe, Devon, confirmed by the National Bee Unit. They are smaller than our native hornet and no more dangerous than a bee to humans. However they pose a risk to honey bee colonies, other native species and potentially ecosystems. They are spreading rapidly in France. This is the first confirmed since last year in Gloucestershire (mentioned in our Sep 2016 edition) and the nest was destroyed. Work is already on the way to destroy any nests. If you think you have seen an Asian hornet, there is an Asian Hornet Watch reporting app to quickly report any possible sightings <https://tinyurl.com/yadaurps> or you can email alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk with a photo or on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat website.

Do not disturb or provoke an active nest. For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/y7g2rt2s>

Microbead Ban Notice is here

There has now been notice with the ban of Microbead sale beginning on the 1st January 2018 and the manufacture on the beginning on 30th June 2018. It has now been formally notified in the London Gazette and draft legislation is now available. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/notice/2863479>

Why are there so many berries this year?

A combination of a warm, dry spring and wet July and August has created perfect conditions for berries on our hedgerows. The warm, dry spring encouraged pollinating insects during peak flowering times in April and May. The wet summer is great for fruit development. <https://tinyurl.com/ybulmlu8>

Red admiral thrives in butterfly count, while whites show decline

The results from the Big Butterfly Count have come through: Red admirals have increased by 75% compared to last year. The green veined white, large white and small white have decreased by more than a third. The gate keeper/hedge brown was the most numerous butterfly and was up a quarter from last year.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9nr7l3l>

Cod and haddock go north due to warming UK seas, as foreign fish arrive

There is concern of the destructive effects of invasive species into the UK's warming waters. Popular haddock and cod could be forced poleward and cuttlefish and sardines could be the fish of the future.

<https://tinyurl.com/ybbmlsg2>

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International NEWS

What happens to wild animals in a hurricane - and which species do surprisingly well?

Some animals, such as birds, can sense a storm coming, research has shown they can pick up environmental changes such as barometric pressure. Others that can benefit are orchids, it can spread their seeds. However most animals are negatively affected, their food supply can be destroyed. Endangered species can be pushed over the edge from a major event like a hurricane. When South Carolina's Marion National Park was hit by hurricane Hugo, it wiped out 60% of the 500 groups of birds. <https://tinyurl.com/yctxfy9d>

Red list: ash trees and antelopes on the brink of extinction

The red list includes more than 25,000 threatened species. North America's native ash trees are on the brink of extinction because of the fast spreading emerald ash borer beetle. Climate change is also making it easier as previously it was too cold for the beetle previously. Ash are important for North American forests, providing food and habitat for birds, squirrels and important pollinators. 150 new species have been added to the list and the Christmas Island pipistrelle bat is now considered extinct. <https://tinyurl.com/yabwjm4d>

Size matters when it comes to extinction risk

There is a term called the 'Goldilocks zone': If an animal is large then it more likely to be threatened by hunting. The other end of the scale the smallest species are restricted by geographical ranges, so are affected by logging and pollution and overlooked by conservation efforts. Extinction is a natural process, however we are losing species a hundred times the background rate and the 6th extinction is considered on its way.

<https://tinyurl.com/ybadpatd>

'The last place on Earth': how Sumatra's rainforest is being cleared for palm oil

The Leuser Ecosystem, Sumatra Island, Indonesia is the only place where orangutans, rhino, tigers and elephants coexist. The Rainforest Action Network has published a study claiming that plantation owner PT Agra Bumi Niaga (ABN) is illegally clearing rainforest and planting oil palm trees in Aceh province. The Aceh government has banned forest clearance for palm oil since June 2016 in that area.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycaemjdl>

More news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#Sep2017NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

Apply for funding for your charity

John Spedan Lewis Foundation provides finance for charities who specialise in wildlife conservation, entomology, ornithology and horticulture projects. Applicants must be a registered charity and the next deadline is 24th October. See the link to apply <https://johnspedanlewisfoundation.wordpress.com/>.

Norfolk's Freshwater Study Group Meetings

Are you keen to learn more about freshwater life?

If you are an enthusiastic beginner or have some experience of investigating the wealth of freshwater life in the county, then the Norfolk Freshwater Study Group meetings could be for you. Meetings take place every third Thursday of the month in the study centre at the Wheatfen Nature Reserve, Surlingham from 19:00 onwards. The focus is typically on invertebrate samples from ponds, dykes, broads and rivers, though we are happy to be side-tracked by anything aquatic. There is a range of microscopes, equipment, identification guides and a vast store of knowledge available to share and use. These meetings are an ideal opportunity to increase your identification skills and understand more about freshwaters.

If you would like to come along and see what is available, please contact Dan Hoare: daniel.j.hoare@gmail.com

Volunteer in a beautiful environment and gain Woodland Management and Horticultural skills at Holt Hall

Help with conservation work on the grounds or lend a hand in the walled garden. Holt hall is an environmental and outdoor learning centre. The next open gate dates on the 9th and 10th December. Please contact at 01263 713117, www.holthall.org.uk or holthall@educatorsolutions.org.uk

National Hedgehog Housing census

Hedgehog Street is running the census from the 15th August to the 31st October 2017. The UK has lost a third of its hedgehogs in 10 years. This census will help us learn from their world and how they live, particularly the impact of hedgehog houses people have created in their garden. To take the survey see <https://tinyurl.com/yd49vsbf> and to map your sightings of hedgehogs see <http://bighedgehogmap.org/>. As hedgehogs are starting to hibernate visit the main page for any other help with hedgehogs in your garden: <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

Help Record Parasitical Mistletoe on Oaks

Mistletoe has a wide range of hosts including oaks. Oaks with parasitical mistletoe are still quite rare. John Cox has gathered records for other areas in the UK, can you help collect the records for Norfolk? If you find any mistletoe, contact NBIS at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

The Brecks Earth Heritage Trail is now open

Want to try a new Trail? Full of prehistoric wildlife with 90 million years of geological history, the Brecks Earth Heritage Trail is one of Britain's great natural areas to explore. Please visit for more information <http://www.breakingnewground.org.uk/earthheritagetrail/> or download the Earth Heritage Trail Map app.

National Plant Monitoring Scheme

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS) is a new habitat-based plant monitoring scheme designed by BSBI, CEH, Plantlife and JNCC. The aim is to collect data to provide an annual indication of changes in plant abundance and diversity. Thanks to volunteers, there is a very good understanding of changes in the populations of birds, butterflies and bats. Plants are the foundation of habitats and ecosystems, but currently we do not have a good measure of changes in plant populations across the country. Anyone who is interested in nature can participate! For more information, visit <http://www.npms.org.uk/>

Calling all eco heroes!

Schools, businesses, local food producers, community groups and individuals are being invited to enter the Norwich and Norfolk Eco Awards, which celebrates and rewards environmental excellence across the city and county. Shiitake mushroom growing, car sharing and food recycling were just some of the winning projects at last year's awards, which are run by Norwich City Council and Norfolk County Council. You can read about last year's winning eco projects [here](#), maybe you know of a cycling group or otherwise that might fit the bill! Please visit www.eco-awards.co.uk for more information and to apply. Open until the 1 December 2017.

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

New dungy fungi

The best way to add species to the Norfolk biodiversity list is to become a mycologist – and then to specialise in a group of fungi or a habitat that no other Norfolk fungus finders have studied. After that it is easy! In the last eight years we have added 16 species of coprophilous (dung-loving) fungi to the Norfolk list. For some reason, Ted Ellis, who was the first to identify hundreds of microfungi in the county, never studied fungi on dung.

These fungi can be difficult to find in the field so a few lumps/pellets of herbivore dung (no one we know looks at carnivore dung!) are enclosed in a transparent container with moist paper tissue.



Lasiobolus macrotrichus, Barney Wood 2017 © Mark Joy

Most of the species that develop over the next month or so will be small or very small but a number of 'toadstool' species occur only on dung, too. One of the surprises is how beautiful many of the small species are. On a Norfolk Fungus Study Group foray to Barney Wood in March 2017, Keith Fox noticed a discomycete on deer dung which turned out to be *Lasiobolus macrotrichus*, hitherto is mostly recorded from Scotland and nowhere nearer to Norfolk than Berkshire.

Thanks to Tony Leech for this piece.

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EVENTS

Wild about Norfolk, Saturday 7th October 2017, 10:00-16:00, Eastern College, Norwich

WAN is an annual wildlife and environmental fair featuring the local groups and national organisations who protect, enhance and restore Norfolk's wildlife and landscape. It is free to attend!!

<https://tinyurl.com/hnhedsb>

'Unique Reef' Illustrated tour of the North Norfolk chalk reef, Tuesday 10th October 2017, 19:30-21:30, St. Andrew's Hall, Eaton, Norwich NR4 6N

Talk by Rob Spray and Dawn Watson of 'Seasearch East' <https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

Wildlife Photography through the seasons

Renowned ecologist and wildlife photographer Jerry Kinsley will be showing some of his stunning wildlife photos and sharing the secrets of his success.

Wednesday 11th October 2017, 19:45, Bawdeswell Village Hall, NR20 4RU

Tuesday 17th October 2017, 19:30, Honing Village Hall, NR28 9AB

For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

NT Workshop - Fungi, National Trust – both sessions at Sheringham Park

Learn the basics of mushroom identification with local expert Tony Leech. Mushrooms and toadstools are fascinating and diverse. In this workshop we will investigate the world of fungi and learn how to identify them through field and classroom sessions.

Thursday 12th October 2017, 10:30– 15:30

Saturday 14th October 2017, 10:30– 15:30

Booking essential for information and to book visit <https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

Breckland Flora Art Workshops

Learn to paint and draw Breckland plants with an expert talk and art workshop! Over the past few years the watercolour workshops with the Icení Botanical Artists have been extremely popular; with colour pencil and graphite tutoring as well as watercolour. Colour pencil drawing and painting materials are provided. Just bring your lunch, a notebook and a mug. No previous experience required!

Fungi (Watercolour or Colour Pencil), Saturday 14th October 2017, 9:30-15:00, Foulden Village Hall

Booking is essential, please visit <http://www.breakingnewground.org.uk/news/breckland-flora-art-workshops-return> for more information and to book.



Tree and Shrub Identification with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Saturday 14th October, 10:00- 13:00 approx, Malpit Community Centre

Come along to learn about tree and shrub identification with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's David North. The session will include an introduction to common trees and shrubs, a short walk along a nearby stretch of Marriott's Way to see what you can identify, followed by a concluding discussion back at the Community Centre. Refreshments will be provided.

Book your free place now by emailing marriottswayheritagetrail@gmail.com or calling 01603 224287.

Apple Day, Sunday 15th October 2017, 10:00-17:00, Gresshamhall Farm and Workhouse

Celebrate apples and all things autumnal, bring mystery apples from the garden, stroll around the orchard and buy lots of local meats, fruits, preserves and cakes. Great for all the family!

For more information and prices: <https://tinyurl.com/y9nt6ra7>

Life in the undergrowth – safari through a typical Norfolk garden, Wednesday 18th October 2017, 19:45, Bawdeswell Village Hall, driveway off Reepham Road, Bawdeswell, NR20 4RU

Mark Webster draws on years of experience working with people and wildlife to showcase some of the many kinds of wildlife found in the garden - you may be surprised at what is lurking in your backyard jungle!

<https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

Fungus Foray, Wednesday 18th October 2017, 13:00, Meeting House Hill Road, Briggate, NR28 9QX

Led by the county fungi recorder, Tony Leech, seeking out mushrooms and other fungi and learn more about these curious organisms. Meet at Weavers Way Carpark. For more information <https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

Fungus Foray to Felbrigg Great Wood, Saturday 21st October 2017, 10:30- 13:00, Felbrigg Hall, NR11 8PR

With Tony Leech & Norfolk Fungus Study Group. Turn into Felbrigg Hallmain drive from B1436 0.5 km from A148 & and meet in the NT car park near the Hall: TG196395 (nearest postcode NR11 8PR).

<https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

Photographic Group members' evening: 'show your own', Tuesday 24th October 2017, 19:30 - 21:30, St. Andrew's Hall, Eaton, Norwich NR4 6NW

All members welcome <https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

Talk- The Midland and Great Northern Railway around North Walsham, Tuesday 24th October, 19:30, North Walsham Community Centre, library car park, New Road, North Walsham, NR28 9DE

Railway author Nigel Digby explains about the history of some the old railway lines that have now become some of Norfolk's finest County Wildlife Sites. <https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

Mossing for beginners on Swaffham Heath (Forestry Commission), 10:30-11:30, Sunday 29th October, Beachamwell Road, Swaffham, PE37 8AS

With Robin Stevenson and the Norfolk and Suffolk Bryological Group. Looking at a variety of habitats within the Forest. The only equipment needed is a handlens (x10 or x20) and some paper packets (old envelopes are fine) for collecting specimens. The meeting will be cancelled only if there is snow or hard frost. Meet in car park on north side of the Swaffham - Beachamwell road at TF791069 (nearest postcode: PE37 8AS) For more information and contact see <https://tinyurl.com/ya2ue4xj>

CPD Training course: Basic bat Awareness & Bat Scoping Training Days

It is a full day of training specifically designed for anyone working with trees, such as tree surgeons, estate and woodland managers, conservationists or ecologists. Successful participants will gain the necessary skills to complete initial scoping surveys and secondary non-specialist surveys as recommended in the British Standard BS 8596:2015 Surveying for bats in trees and woodland - Guide.

Friday 20th October 2017 (Only a few places left!)

Friday 24th November 2017

To get the application form and book <https://www.anqlianecology.co.uk/>

Community Drop in sessions: Local Watercourse Maintenance and Regulation may be changing The Main River Network (RMRN project): find out more about what is involved, how proposals could affect you and share your feedback with us.

Environment Agency will be attending the session.

River Stiffkey: 14:00-19:00, Monday 16th October 2017, Kettlestone Village Hall, The Street, Kettlestone, Fakenham, NR21 0AU.

Wending Beck: 14:00-19:00, Thursday 19th October 2017, Dereham Memorial Hall Meeting Room, 62a Norwich Street, Dereham, NR19 8LR

River Tiffey: 14:00-19:00, Thursday 26th October 2017, Wymondham Central Hall, Back Lane, Wymondham, NR16 0QB

River Hun: 15:00-19:00, Friday 27th October 2017, Hunstanton Community Centre Avenue Road, Hunstanton, PE36 5BW

Tunstall Dyke and Waxham Cut: 14:00-19:00, Tuesday 31st October 2017, Sea Palling and Waxham Village Hall, Waxham Road, Sea Palling, NR12 0US

If you can't make these dates to be kept in the know email: hannah.watson@environment-agency.gov.uk

For information: <https://tinyurl.com/y8daodkn>

Orchards East- Norfolk Launch, Saturday 4th November 2017, 10.00 -15:00, The Green Britain Centre, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7HT

Orchards East is an exciting new environmental and cultural project covering six counties in the East of England – Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Three year project to research, conserve and promote the region's orchards, their legacy and their future.

Sign up to the Norfolk launch and learn about the project and how you can get involved in volunteering to survey Norfolk's traditional orchards, amongst other orchard related activities.

This is a FREE event but **booking is required**.

If you would like to find out more about the project or come along to the launch, please book a place by contacting: gen@orchardseast.org.uk or visit www.orchardseast.org.uk

Bug Sorting Workshop NO.3

Come along and learn about invertebrate families and help sort specimens into those families - by doing so you will help really important UEA research into management for important invertebrates in the Brecks!

Sign up today to as many dates* as you like:

At Dragonfly house

We have 5 weekday dates (1st, 2nd, 8th, 15th and 22nd November) in Norwich that you can book here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybkfy8bd>

We have weekend sessions (Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December) in Norwich that you can book here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y72uqbv4>

We have weekend sessions (Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December) in the Brecks that you can book here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yab8dhkx>

*Please note if you wish to attend more than one date (which we encourage you to do), you will need to book each date separately.

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AND FINALLY.. Why people in glass houses should watch out for bats: <https://tinyurl.com/y84fnjcu>

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