



Biodiversity News in Norfolk No 23 (February 2013)

Photo: Our NBIS volunteer (now under contract), displays the skills needed for a career in conservation - her biodiversity cake created for an office cake day (Photo:NBIS)

Welcome to our February biodiversity e-bulletin

Phffftttt its still very cold outside NBIS towers, but at least the snow has now gone. Most importantly, however, we had a fantastic annual joint NBIS/NatSoc recorders evening the other week to warm our biodiversity spirits, with some really interesting talks, plenty of exciting (but evidently dead, due to the time of year) specimens on the finds table, and our largest turnout yet.

As thee-bulletin's second birthday looms, we have a premature cake celebration (see photo above), which was actually for an office cake day - definitely the winner on the day, our volunteer (now on short-term contract with us) Polly Bryant displays the real skills needed for a career in conservation!

This month we have plenty of interesting news items including: The fightback against ash dieback, plenty of inspiring volunteer work and many many wildlife activities for you to get involved with.

We are particularly keen for more volunteers for the NBIS species monitoring project. We will be recording species across a network of sites in the county and are looking for volunteers to help. We are able to help with training and equipment but you should have a moderate level of skill in at least one of the following taxa: fungi; lichens; bryophytes; vascular plants; beetles; hymenoptera; butterflies and day-flying moths; reptiles and bats. Recording will take place on heathland, calcareous grassland and arable margins. For more details contact nbis@norfolk.gov.uk 01603 224458

**Biodiversity and Countryside Team
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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, from March 19th: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/E-bulletinFebruary2013.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

High level visit to inspire Norfolk people to protect their rivers - The Broadland Catchment Approach

<http://t.co/Kl0nam55>

New and Final Gaywood Valley Newsletter

http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Gaywood_Valley

Norwich Research Park scientists leading the ash dieback fightback

<http://t.co/jp0gykxT>

Volunteers help conserve north Norfolk nature spots while keeping fit -

The North Norfolk Workout Group at Sadler's Wood, North Walsham: <http://t.co/rfoXYy4c>

Amazing video about Norfolk's marine wildlife made by Seasearch East

<http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/Conservation/Living-Seas.aspx>

Another successful annual joint NBIS/NatSoc recorders evening

It was lovely to catch up with lots of the volunteer recorders the other week- without whom NBIS would hold very few records- over curly fries and curry. And the excellent presentations covered a wide variety of subjects - from online recording to the new Mousehold Earth Heritage Trail, from Norfolk marine biodiversity to how consultants use records. All in all a great evening!

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National NEWS

Defra announce new body to protect forests for future generations

A new, independent public body will hold in trust the nation's publicly-owned forests for future generations, Environment Secretary Owen Paterson has announced. Alongside the continuing work of the Forestry Commission, this new body will own, maintain and safeguard our forests on behalf of the public.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2013/01/31/protect-forests/>

Up to 500 new mineral site details on updated NAM website

The update to the Mapping Tool facility of Nature After Minerals (NAM)'s dedicated website www.afterminerals.com is now released!

Report tracks threats from Europe's alien invasion

<http://t.co/UsTlba0rcq>

The most lethal invader...Asian hornet that preys on native bees

<http://t.co/ISR MJN5ETO>

Research by ZSL shows almost 1/5 of world reptiles at risk of extinction

<http://t.co/daEw2YJq>

Habitats Directive Risks

The Environment Agency has published a Habitats Directive Risks tool. The tool shares information on the risks posed to protected sites from activities the Environment Agency regulate.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/permitting/143519.aspx>

First butterflies, now moths decline

<http://t.co/vcNsuAXZ>

Sale of Invasive Water Plants Banned

Defra has announced that the sale of five invasive non-native aquatic plant species is to be banned. The banned plants are Water Fern, Parrot's Feather, Floating Pennywort, Australian Swamp Stone-crop (New Zealand Pygmyweed), and Water Primrose. For more information, click here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2013/01/29/invasive-plants-banned/>

Engagement with the Natural Environment

Natural England has published the report 'Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009-2012): Difference in Access to the Natural Environment Between Social Groups Within the Adult English Population.'

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4646400>

Proposals to Improve Honey Bee Health

Defra has launched a consultation on 'Proposed Changes to Managing and Controlling Pests and Diseases.' The consultation is inviting comments on proposals that emerged from a Defra review of current policies on managing honey bee pests and diseases: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/files/bee-health-consult-doc-20130118.pdf>

More National news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#February2013NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

NBIS species monitoring project - call for volunteers

We will be recording species across a network of sites in the county and are looking for volunteers to help. We are able to help with training and equipment but you should have a moderate level of skill in at least one of the following taxa: fungi; lichens; bryophytes; vascular plants; beetles; hymenoptera; butterflies and day-flying moths; reptiles and bats. Recording will take place on heathland, calcareous grassland and arable margins. For more details contact nbis@norfolk.gov.uk 01603 224458

A thousand volunteers needed to count the UK's most elusive bird the woodcock - Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust

<http://t.co/O0WZlalg>

Calling all surveyors and species experts! To celebrate its 10th birthday, Sculthorpe Moor is running a bioblitz. Surveyors and walk leaders will be needed for 21/22 September.

There's something deeply satisfying in getting to know your garden wildlife - join the Garden Bioblitz on June 1-2 (GBB13)

<http://www.naturewatched.org/gbb-getting-ready.html>

Volunteer for Norwich Cathedral Project - Help Show the Peregrines from Cathedral Close

<http://t.co/vbG3l8qI>

Adopt-a-box to help wild owls nest safely

<http://bit.ly/YoSFbb>

Still space on Biological Recording and Species ID hands-on part time course at FSC Centres

<http://t.co/TMUeKPiR>

A reminder why submitting mammal records is important. Mammal Society National Mammal Atlas:

<http://www.mammal.org.uk/nmap>

Have you spotted any siskins in your garden? Let BTO know!

<http://www.bto.org/news-events/news/2013-02/siskins-break-15-year-record>

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Fungi highlights posters - "*Interesting recent records of Norfolk Fungi*"

Your chance to view two posters from our annual joint NBIS/NatSoc recorders evening:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Norfolkfungi1lo.pdf>

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Norfolkfungi2lo.pdf>

Many thanks to our County Fungi Recorder Tony Leech for these impressive displays.

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EVENTS

The Changing Environment and the Norwich School

Wednesday 13 March 2013, 1pm-2pm

Professor Peter Brimblecombe from the University of East Anglia discusses the environmental clues given by the Norwich School artists in their paintings.

Start in the Town Close Auditorium and finish in the Colman Art Galleries, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Museum admission only: Adult £6.80, Concession £5.80, Young Adult (17-24) £5.30, Child (4-16) £4.90.

Management of non-native species in UK conservation event, 25th March, Uni of Worcs

<http://t.co/aeNLxmjq>

Broads Biodiversity Group and Water Quality Partnership Joint meeting - Seminar on Hydrology in the Broads

19th April 2013

Waveney Room, Yare House or Harnser, Dragonfly House

There's something deeply satisfying in getting to know your garden wildlife - join the GardenBioblitz on June 1-2 GBB13

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AND FINALLY..

This is fantastic -A great and comical look at how invasive species work:

<http://youtu.be/JaRMVLT5Psc>

Police appeal after 'panther' sighting in Norwich

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/police_appeal_after_panther_sighting_in_norwich_1_1960447

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<http://www.nbis.org.uk/e-bulletin-survey>

Webpages: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/> ; www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/; www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies

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