

Nottinghamshire

Wildlife Trust

The Old Ragged School, Brook Street, Nottingham, NG1 1EA

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Media Release

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Wildlife Trust recognises those taking action for wildlife on their doorstep

After a year which has challenged many to re-evaluate what is important in their lives and which has, for many underlined the value of people having access to natural greenspaces on their doorstep Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is delighted to announced the successful nominees in the charity's 2020/21 Wildlife on Your Doorstep Awards supported by EDF.

For over a decade, the awards have been recognising and rewarding actions taken by individuals, groups and organisations to protect and promote wildlife in their local communities. Over the past year many people have continued to find the time and energy to put nature first despite the challenges we've all faced due to the pandemic and restrictions during successive lockdowns.

Speaking about the awards Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Chief Executive Paul Wilkinson said:

"One of the positives to come out of the past year has been people's increased appreciation of the natural world and wider recognition of the role nature plays in sustaining us and enhancing our wellbeing. We've been delighted with the response to the Wildlife on Your Doorstep Awards and it's great to see that people across the county have been putting nature first in extremely challenging times."

The winners of the 2020/21 Wildlife on Your Doorstep Awards are:

5-year-old Ariadne Van Krimpen who regularly collects litter from her local park and streets near her home in Beeston – whatever the weather. She already plans to become a marine conservationist and regularly encourages her family and friends to be kinder to wildlife.

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Retford based lawncare expert Ian Stephens who champions the benefits of nature for health and encourages his customers to appreciate the wildlife around them.

St John the Baptist Church of England School, Colwick who promoted a range of weekly outdoor activities and nature challenges through last year's lock down.

Michael Trendall of Strelley who goes out of his way to help ensure toads make it safely across the road on a key migration route each year.

Ravenshead Church of England Primary School which has developed a new outdoor learning area from a previously out of bounds area of woodland during lockdown to encourage children to learn about nature. With the help of parents, the area was quickly restored after damage caused by heavy snow.

Nadia Ming of Newark who has been helping to safeguard [the](#) toad population that crosses Barnby Road and monitors local planning applications for possible impacts on amphibians.

Friends of the Hook – This dedicated volunteer group care for this popular community greenspace in the Lady Bay which has become a place of solace for many new visitors during lockdowns. Despite significant challenges the Friends have carried out a range of improvements including significant tree planting and wild flower planting and expanded their wildlife monitoring programme.

Speaking on behalf of the award sponsors EDF Training Lead Steve Walker said: “We care about our local community. We are proud to work in partnership with the Wildlife Trust and fully support the excellent work they do. We take an active interest in the local wildlife and meet regularly with members of the local community to discuss and share action that is taking place in our neighbouring towns and villages”.

New Chair's Award

For the first time Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust will also present two special Chair's Awards – to highlight people and projects that are helping to put nature into recovery or inspiring others to take action for nature. Speaking about the new Awards Wildlife Trust Chairman Nick Parsons said: “For too many years the focus of conservation effort has been on hanging on to remaining areas of habitat but in the face of wildlife and climate emergencies this needs to shift towards expanding and connecting habitats to put nature into recovery.

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With so much to do we also need more and more people to take action in their daily lives that benefit wildlife and the environment. We want to celebrate the efforts being made to create a wilder Nottinghamshire and we hope these awards act as a rallying cry to encourage others to do more for nature.”

The inaugural Chair’s Awards will be presented to Ewan Cameron and the Nottingham Dormouse Group. Ewan is recognised for his decision to launch an online petition last summer calling for the demolished Broadmarsh shopping centre in Nottingham City Centre to be transformed into public greenspace following the collapse of former owners INTU. His petition sparked considerable public debate and helped inspire the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and other groups to develop their own wild green visions for the site. The Nottinghamshire Dormouse Group are dedicated and skilled volunteers who help to monitor the dormice populations in a number of woodlands in north Nottinghamshire. Their work is helping to map the spread of these re-introduced populations and helping to inform work to create a network of habitat between locations that will ensure that these delightful woodland mammals have a sustainable future in the county thanks to this landscape scale conservation project.

Nick added: “Ewan stuck his head above the parapet and called for something bold and innovative. His call clearly resonated with the public and his ambitious idea helped inspire us to create our own vision for the Broadmarsh site and his early work has undoubtedly helped to move the conversation on. The City Council are no longer talking about whether there will be natural greenspace as part of the redevelopment of the area, but in terms of how much. The support of the Dormouse Group is not just helping the animals themselves, it is helping us to map and create functioning Nature Recovery Networks with other landowners that will help sustain the dormice and provide opportunities for other wildlife populations to migrate and expand in the years ahead.”

Further detail on our 2020/21 Wildlife on Your Doorstep Award Winners

Ian Stephens of Lawnmaster

Ian received multiple nominations from regular customers who consider Ian to be the perfect wildlife ambassador – always highlighting the benefits to mental health of being in nature and sharing informative posts about wildlife sightings and advice to encourage garden wildlife across his social media platforms. When putting him forward for an award people

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highlighted his positivity and passion for nature and willingness to share his knowledge with others.

St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School, Colwick

When lockdown began in March 2020, class teachers posted ideas for an outdoor activity on their class pages each week continuing through the holidays. Families were also encouraged to sign up to 30 Days Wild campaign in June and challenged to do something linked to nature every day throughout the month. Children were encouraged to send in photos of what they have made, seen and experienced and every single one who emailed in received an encouraging reply.

Michael Trendall

Michael was nominated by members of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's *Keeping it Wild* youth team for his inspiring dedication to protecting the local toad population. Michael manages the Strelley toad crossing during migration season each spring and regularly misses family gatherings such as Easter lunch due to his commitment. The group consider him to be a 100% wildlife superhero for coming to the toads' rescue.

Ariadne van Krimpen

5-year-old Ariadne is passionate about saving coral reefs and wants to become a marine conservationist when she is older. In the meantime, she takes action for nature closer to home – carrying out regular litter picking in the parks and streets around her home in Beeston – even in the pouring rain. Adne is now also encouraging other members of her family and friends to be kinder to wildlife – passing on her wisdom by explaining that when people drop rubbish and plastic wildlife in our oceans is put at risk.

Ravenshead CofE school

The school developed an outdoor woodland school during lockdown to encourage children to learn about nature. They have an outdoor classroom, sensory walk, mud kitchen, bug hotels and more. They have also offered this fantastic resource to neighbouring schools. Everyone has worked so hard and the children absolutely love it, they even make soup from the produce they grow cooking it over a fire pit. The school was nominated by a parent who appreciates that the children have the chance to become more in tune to nature and learn how they can help protect the environment for the future.

Nadia Ming

Several years ago Nadia noticed that the frogs and toads migrate across the busy Barnby Road to the nearby lake. Working with the Frogline charity she set up a new frog and toad crossing and recruited a loyal band of volunteers - arranging buckets, safety jackets and training. She encouraged the council to install toad crossing signs to warn drivers and collects data about the numbers of animals crossing for submission to frogline. She also

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checks local planning applications for any impacts on amphibians and their habitat. When on holiday Nadia keeps in touch with the volunteers via a special toad patrol whatsapp group.

Friends of the Hook

The Hook, north of Lady Bay has been transformed thanks to the dedication and careful management by the Friends to improve the biodiversity of an area which has provided solace for many people during the lockdowns. The volunteers have clocked up an impressive 269 volunteer hours over the past 12 months and carried out a range of improvements including tree planting, wild flower planting and enhancements to the community orchard. They have also been busy securing grants for tools, trees and specialist advice. The latest work has included re-sowing of areas impacted by the significant increase in visitors during the pandemic.

Chairman's Awards

Nottinghamshire Dormouse Group

Since 2013 the Nottinghamshire Dormouse Group have overseen monitoring of three dormouse reintroduction programmes in the county - supervising the release of the animals and monthly surveys of up to 500 nest boxes between April and October. In winter they maintain the boxes and assist with coppice management of the woods. Over the last few years they have been talking to local landowners about hedgerow and habitat management and have permission to monitor boxes installed on land adjacent to the three main woodlands. In 2020 COVID 19 presented new challenges for the group they still completed all monitoring visits except for the April surveys. Where surveys would normally be carried out by four of five groups, only licenced handlers, working alone or in distant pairs, could take part to safeguard both surveyors and dormice. The reduced number of surveyors and bumper numbers of dormice resulted in some long days for those taking part. The survey also confirmed that dormice are have begun to colonising areas beyond the original woodlands – including a along a section of hedgerow restored by the group only a few years earlier

Ewan Cameron

In the wake of the Broadmarsh shopping centre closing to shoppers in June 2020, Ewan, a 36-year-old freelance writer and teacher from West Bridgford set up a Change.org petition calling for Nottingham City Council to create a green open space on the site to act as a place for relaxation and to support people's mental health. Ewan was keen to highlight that the petition wasn't in opposition to the council but a move to ensure that the consultation process was transparent and that people's views could be heard. Ewan believed that plans to revamp the centre to provide leisure facilities including a bowling alley and cinema in addition to new retail units harked back to the 1990s and was keen to see the city grasp what he saw as a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform the site into an attractive area that would provide a great welcome for visitors, boost tourism and attract investment.

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Notes to Editors

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, a registered charity, manages Nature Reserves throughout the county of Nottinghamshire. It advises local authorities, community groups and landowners on nature conservation issues, and makes a major input into decision-making on planning matters and other issues. For more information please see our website: nottinghamshirewildlife.org.

The Trust is part of a nation-wide network of local Trusts which work to protect wildlife in town and country - The Wildlife Trusts.

The Wildlife Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts believe that people need nature and it needs us. We are here to make the world wilder and to make nature part of everyone's lives. We are a grassroots movement of 46 charities with more than 850,000 members and 38,000 volunteers. No matter where you are in the UK, there is a Wildlife Trust inspiring people and saving, protecting and standing up for the natural world. With the support of our members, we care for and restore special places for nature on land and run marine conservation projects and collect vital data on the state of our seas. Every Wildlife Trust works within its local community to inspire people to create a wilder future – from advising thousands of landowners on how to manage their land to benefit wildlife, to connecting hundreds of thousands of school children with nature every year. wildlifetrusts.org