

## Main Work Party Reports

**May 11 - Buckenham Woods** – Main path and both sides from site entrance gate to the slope steps mown. The dip slope to the fire site and the causeway path strimmed. Strimmed around bike stands, entrance sign, seats and newly planted trees. All cut vegetation raked and cleared to fire site/spoil heaps. 7 members

**June 08 – Lingwood Church** – Approx. 2/3 of the Conservation area raked and cleared which was mown on 02 Jun2. Cut vegetation to be burnt at later date. 8 members

**June 22 – Hemblington Church** – Conservation area raked and cleared to spoil heaps. 7 members +1

## Additional Work

**May 27 – Jary's Meadow** – West meadow – Cut and pulled bracken. Cut the new patch and against hedge pulled the rest.

**May 29 – Walsham Fen** – Boardwalk mown with a 1m strip either side of the of the boardwalk also mown.

**June 01 – BADCOG Tree care follow up.** Scythed and cleared around the following Oaks:

**Dyes Rd, Blofield Heath 10.**

**Shack Lane 2.**

**Hassingham 10.**

**Buckenham 6.**

**Braydeston Farms 6.**

**June 02 – Lingwood Church** – A 2/3 section of the Conservation area mown.

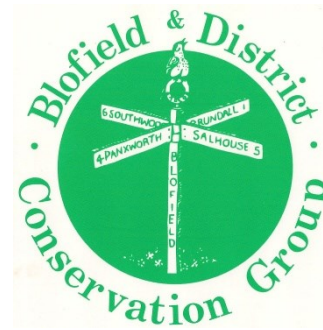
**June 03 – Lingwood Church** – Cut vegetation turned to dry.

**June 13 – Hemblington Church** – Conservation area mown. Scythed around gravestones.

**June 15 – Walsham Fen** - Cut vegetation on, and alongside the boardwalk, raked and cleared.

**June 26 – Southwood church**—Site cut ready for the BVCG.

**June 29 – Blofield church**—The whole churchyard cut ready for the main work party and the Green Gym.



## BADCOG NEWS.

No 232: July 2024

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## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE JULY 2024

BADCOG is very grateful to Hemblington Church for their donation of £86.45. This was part of the proceeds from a concert held at Hemblington in April. In June the Church also held their '**Great Big Green Week**' event, which included a group visit organised by the NWT looking at churchyard conservation management. David Pilch was on hand to explain how BADCOG manages the south side of the churchyard, whilst a member of the Bure Valley Conservation Group (BVCG) talked about the management of the north side of the churchyard. The BADCOG display/stand was also on show throughout the week in the church for this event but unfortunately the planned moth trapping morning didn't happen due to the wet weather.

As there were two Bank Holidays in May, we only held the one work party that month, this being at Buckenham Woods. If we are going to have a pause in our work party program, May is always a good time, as it means that there's less chance of disturbing nesting birds. We resumed our program once again on the 8th June at Lingwood Church, which is always an easy one. Despite the fact that what we cut here would make excellent feed for horses, this hay will at some point be burnt, as we find it difficult to find someone to take it away as feed. A big thank you to Denis who will, on the right day, with the wind in the right direction, burn it. For this work party I took along my moth trap that had been out the previous night. The results were very poor with very few moths, which reflects the current decline in insect numbers right across the UK as discussed on the recent BBC Spring Watch programme.

The result for the orchid count held at Howes Meadow is on page 4 and a big thank you to those who helped with the count. As there were very few orchids on show at Walsham Fen, it was decided that there was little point in doing a count here this year.

Summer is always a busy time, so I hope to see you all at some point at one of our forthcoming work parties. The programme can be found on page 5.

## Protection for Hedgerows

The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024 has been made into law, effective from May 23 2024, providing a legal baseline for hedgerow management practices. This includes:

- A 2-metre buffer strip, measured from the centre of a hedgerow, where a green cover must be established and maintained.
- Also, no cultivation or the application of pesticides or fertilisers should take place within this buffer strip.
- A hedgerow cutting ban from 1 March to 31 August (inclusive).

Annie Heslop, Hedgerow Lead at The Tree Council, said: “The Tree Council welcomes the introduction of UK government legislation to protect hedgerows in England.

“These regulations put into law important hedgerow management practices to protect nesting birds, and boost biodiversity and carbon storage in our hedge margins.”

The new legislation broadly mirrors the previous approach under cross compliance, which should make it straightforward for farmers and others who are familiar with the requirements.

The Government says the regulations will be enforced by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), in “a fair and proportionate way” and the RPA has been talking to farmers and others about the best approaches. From day one, the RPA says it will take an “advice-led approach”, with stronger actions in only the worst cases. The RPA will hold a public consultation on how to implement and enforce these protections in due course.

Annie Heslop added: “The consultation on hedgerow protection, to which The Tree Council contributed, revealed very high levels of support across sectors for maintaining hedgerow protections, so we are optimistic they will be welcomed and followed.

“We look forward to working with the RPA on its consultation around the implementation and enforcement of the new regulations.”



*Photo - BADCOG Hedge & tree planting at Upton Village Hall 2009.*

## David Payne

Members of the BADCOG Committee were saddened to hear of the death of David Payne in May this year. David was a member of the committee from 1999 – 2007.

In retirement, while devoting some time to local conservation issues, David was also travelling far and wide on BTCV working holidays, where participants work on environmental programmes in exchange for board and lodging. He was in Katmandu on one occasion and gave us an illustrated talk about his time there at one of our indoor meetings. Bavaria, the Shetlands, Canada are just three of many other places to which he ventured.

David pursued his varied interests with great enthusiasm. For example, after many years studying sundials, and all the mathematics involved, he was responsible for the design and installation of the human analemmatic sundial in Jubilee Wood. He wrote many items in the BADCOG newsletter about this and many other sundials that he designed and were installed around the local area. He was also a musician, accompanying Joan with various wind and percussion instruments, many of which he had made himself. Also, together with son Ben, the three gave concerts in local venues like residential homes, schools and churches, simply for the joy of it. David is gone but not forgotten by BADCOG.



Photo: David, in red, at Howes Meadow in September 2005, just one of many work parties he attended.

## BADCOG WORK PARTY DATES

**Work parties start at 10.30am and finish at about 1pm.**

**All welcome!**

**6th July—Blofield Churchyard**

**9th July—Blofield Churchyard (The Green Gym)**

**20th July—Howes Meadow**

**3rd August—Walsham Fen**

**17th August—Jary's Meadow**

**31st August—Buckenham Woods**

**Check website for any changes!**

## A survey of deer numbers in The Broads

The Broads Authority supported consultants in carrying out a thermal-imaging drone study in February 2024, mainly at night or in the early morning when most species are active.

The drone survey flew across 203 sq km, mainly in the northern part of the Broads. It recorded 4,452 deer, giving a high overall density (allowing for certain exclusion areas) of almost 17 animals per sq km. Chinese Water deer were the most common at 1,997 animals – accounting for nearly half of all the deer counted. Red deer were the second most common with 1,172, followed by Muntjac 1,028, and 255 Roe deer. Fallow deer were not found in the survey area. They are widespread in other parts of Norfolk but are rare in the Broads and very secretive.



The Chinese Water deer, well known to many walkers, has no antlers, long protruding canine teeth, and large fluffy ears. Native to China and Korea, it escaped from Whipsnade Zoo in 1929. On a global scale, it is endangered, but about 10% of the world total is now found in the UK, mainly

in the wetlands of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Norfolk. The species is doing remarkably well in the Broads and is relatively harmless to trees and crops.

The Muntjac, or Barking deer, another native of China, escaped or was deliberately released from Woburn Park in Bedfordshire and other stately homes in the early 20th century. Originally a woodland and forest species, it has become a common sight and sound because it visits roadside verges and meadows, as well as gardens and allotments on the edge of towns and cities, where it has become a rather unwelcome pest.



From an article by Mark Collins illustrated by Hans Watson

## UK and Scottish governments ban sandeel fishing in the English North Sea and all Scottish waters

The decision to close industrial sandeel fishing comes at a critical time for internationally important populations of breeding seabirds in the UK, including those along the Suffolk coast. Sandeel are a low trophic level species and play a vital role in ensuring an abundance of biodiversity in the marine environment, by providing a vital food source to vulnerable seabirds, such as kittiwake and guillemot, and sea mammals including seals, porpoises, and whales. In accordance with the agreed objectives and principles under the new EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (Article 494), the closures will:

1. Preserve marine biological diversity by establishing the urgent action required to support globally significant populations of breeding seabirds which are in severe decline across the UK.
2. Appropriately apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management in response to the serious risk posed to sandeel-dependent seabirds foraging in the North Sea.
3. Effectively contribute towards achieving national and international biodiversity targets.

Given the extent of the pressure which marine ecosystems are under in the North Sea, and more generally in European waters, Suffolk Wildlife Trust believe the measures taken are an affective response to the precarious state of globally significant populations of breeding seabirds foraging in the North Sea. The decision to close sandeel fishing in the English part of the North Sea and Scottish waters throws a lifeline to UK seabirds (many of which are of European and global importance), and backtracking on this would pose a risk to their breeding success and population resilience, as well as threatening wider marine ecosystems. Evidence provided by *Natural England*, the *Joint Nature Conservation Committee* and *Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science*, indicates that seabird abundance could increase within 10-years following the full closure of industrial sandeel fishing in UK waters. Moreover, the decisions are backed by overwhelming public support to end industrial sandeel fishing in English North Sea waters and Scottish waters (95.5% and 97% of respondents respectively).

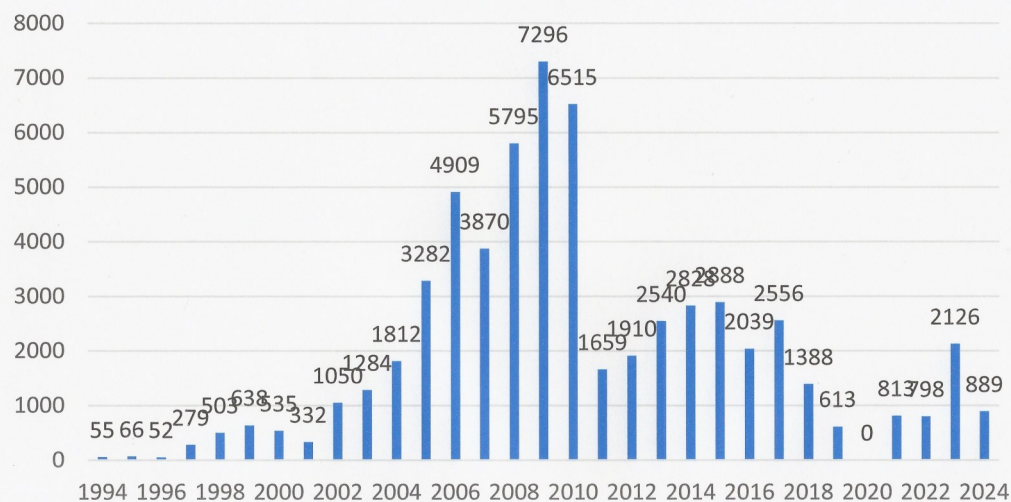
Suffolk Wildlife Trust

## Orchid Count

This year's orchid count at Howes Meadow took place on the evening of 17th June. This year the vegetation seemed much higher than previous years and this, coupled with just a handful of counters, made for a difficult count.

Once again the south west section of meadow had the highest numbers, with 807 recorded, compared to 58 in the south east quarter and only 24 recorded for the whole of the north side of the meadow. Most orchids were very small spikes, with the occasional large one. What was also noticed was the lack of butterflies and dragonflies although a few Blood-Vein moths were seen.

Howes Meadow



## Ruffs at Deepdale Marsh, North Norfolk.

Ruffs breed in just a few lowland sites in eastern England and it appears their numbers are dropping. It's usually a migrant bird but, in the UK, some birds are present all year round. Many young birds from Scandinavia visit the UK in late summer, before migrating on to Africa.

Nearly extinct in Britain in the 19th century ruffs should benefit from a scheme near Brancaster, once one of the bird's strongholds. A long term release project is planned with the Max Planck institute in Bavaria supplying captive-bred ruff.



## Old copies of the Eastern Daily Press tell the story of some extreme weather conditions in Norwich with storms in 1895 and floods in 1912.

The cover pages of these large format newspapers consist entirely of boxes of advertisements for local businesses. Oil mills, silk mercers, Daniels' seeds, coke by the chaldron. Within are accounts of events of local interest. The headlines in March 1895 were - 'The Great Gale'; 'The disaster at Norwich Workhouse' and 'Havoc in East Anglia'.

In Norwich the destruction of property was widespread, ridges of houses taken away, houses rendered roofless, chimney pots and stacks laid low... but this was nothing as compared to damage at the Norwich Workhouse. (Originally a Poor House stood near Blackfriars in what is now Duke Street but in 1859 a workhouse was erected where the West Norwich hospital now stands).

This substantially built structure could not withstand the force of the hurricane on March 25th, 1895. Shortly after 3 o'clock the slates on the chapel roof were dancing merrily. The children in the day room watched with interest mingled with fear. Presently a chimney stack fell, the belfry began to rock violently and the roof slates which had been acting independently of each other became animated with one common idea and rose high in the air where they swirled and twirled like a flock of birds. Then half the roof was lifted and carried in the direction of the terrified children who fled to another room. (Fortunately, they escaped harm).

Further accounts of the hurricane in other towns in East Anglia filled more pages of that paper. The EDP's account of floods in 1912 - reportedly the worst since 1614.

In August the headlines were 'Rainfall records broken'; '6.59 inches in twelve hours'; 'Widespread devastation'; 'Railway services stopped'; 'All communications broken'; 'Flood scenes in Norwich'.

Rainfall records were - between 4 am to 9 am - 1.03 inches. From 9 am to 5.30 pm - 5.56 inches. Total - 6.59 inches.

Journalists from London arrived to report on the floods and were shocked to witness some poor housing conditions particularly in the "yards". After WW1 new estates were built at Earlham, Mile Cross and Lakenham.

One incident highlighted among all the scenes of flooding was the collapse of the river bridge at Lakenham and the narrow escape of Joseph Browne travelling in a trap. He was saved when, in the pitch darkness, the horse shied and refused to continue when just 10 yards away from the collapsed bridge.