

Suffolk Badger and other Mammals Group



July 2013

Issue 9

Protestors take to the streets of London!

On June 1st several thousand anti badger-cull protestors from all over the country took to London's streets. Led by Dr Brian May, the demonstration highlighted the Governments decision to plough on with a planned trial cull of 5000 badgers despite the scientific evidence & the majority of public opinion against it.

The online E-petition is now the largest of its kind. The trial is to determine if shooting free running badgers is humane or not & if deemed successful it will result in more than 100,000 badgers being killed with the majority likely to be healthy! To date the cull has not started so please do not give up, write to your MP & continue to spread the word that "badger culling can make no meaningful contribution to cattle TB control in Britain."



AGM 2013 (12th October 2013)

This years Annual General Meeting will be based around the theme of Mammal recording. We will start at 0900 with groups checking our small mammal traps located around Newbourne Springs Nature reserve. The site used to supply water for local supplies, but that was stopped in the 1980's & it is now managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT). The springs, reedbeds, heathland & woodland make this habitat a welcome home for many uncommon plants & insects. At 1200-1300 we will break for Lunch & at 1330 the AGM will commence in Newbourne Village Hall.

Special points of interest:

- Suffolk Badger Update
- Tracking down Dormice
- AGM 2013 Details
- Bat Group dates.
- Learn more about marine wildlife

Suffolk Badger Update

Adrian Hinchliffe

Generally speaking 2013 has been a year of uncertainty for badgers throughout the country. Thankfully here in Suffolk, due to the fact we do not have a bovine tb problem in our cattle, our wildlife do not have the disease either & long may that continue. In W. Somerset & W. Gloucestershire however, the cull could begin any night soon!

Badgers in Suffolk have enough issues of their own, without being shot at and road casualty numbers this year have remained high.

Several cases of badgers taking up residence in gardens have caused a few problems for the house owners and consultation with our badger group



has been invaluable. This is especially true of a council owned property in a village outside of Ipswich where the new tenants along with their young children & small terrier dogs were clearly not impressed with sharing their back yard. Being very close to the neighbouring house, undermining a pathway & blocking a water ditch, meant that Natural England granted a license for the sett to be closed. Luckily the main sett is only 300m away & so members of our group came to the rescue & fitted one way gates to allow the badgers to leave the garden sett & return to the main sett. Once a set period of time passes where no gate movement has occurred, the group will be able to find out the extent of the tunnels & chambers & then back fill with wire mesh & soil to prevent badgers returning in the future. It was certainly appreciated by all who helped in realising how good badgers are at digging, as the ground was unbelievably hard! Well done to everyone who helped out.

Lastly, the picture on the right shows a very lucky Suffolk Badger cub having been rehabilitated by members of the North East Essex Badger group & released by a Suffolk Farmer who found it injured in the road. A great joint effort by all concerned!



The Suffolk Badger & Other Mammals Group aim to promote the conservation of Badgers and other mammals in Suffolk through recording their distribution, studying their ecology, raising awareness and providing advice.

Please continue to support our group and get involved in whatever way you can.

Planning can often conflict with Badgers but if Setts are located and flagged up in advance or at an early stage in the planning application, the Badgers and their homes can often be mitigated for and any delays for the builders minimized. Please get in contact if you think a Badger sett will be directly affected by any building work. **Please don't assume we already know about it.**

Seen a dead Badger?

Please send in any Suffolk Badger casualty records or sett reports to:
adrian@wondersofwildlife.co.uk

The Suffolk Badger Group's remote camera - Should I stay or should I go...

This is the moment one of the last badgers leaves its sett after it was closed under license. It appears to think about heading further into the garden but then heads off into the open fields and woods, where its main sett is 300 meters away.

gardenature
WILDLIFE CAMERA SYSTEMS

"Gardenature" have very kindly agreed to give our members a 10% discount off any of their wildlife / nestbox camera systems (excluding accessories and other products).

(<http://www.gardenature.co.uk/>)



Tracking down Suffolk's Dormice by nut hunting!

Tuesday 1st OCTOBER 10am -1pm

Join Suffolk Wildlife Trust staff member, Simone Bullion, to find out about the rare and elusive dormouse, followed by a walk in the woods to see if we can find any nibbled hazelnuts.

Supported by The SITA Trust.

Location: Bradfield Woods NNR, Suffolk

Cost FREE

Booking essential via website www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org or 01473 890089

Would you like to give a short talk at this years Agm?

If you would like to share a short (5 minute talk) at this years AGM on your experiences or mammal related stories then do please get in contact.

Do you have an interesting story / comment / picture with reference to a mammal? If you could kindly send them in to me then they may well appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

(adrian@wondersofwildlife.co.uk)

Bats

Here are a few dates that the Suffolk bat group are surveying. They are welcoming volunteers interested in getting more involved to come along:

- Wolverstone 6th August 2013
- Centreparks 2nd August 2013
- Newborne 31st August 2013
- Publicity Day – 16th August 2013

Fancy learning more about your local marine wildlife this summer?

July 27th saw the start of The Wildlife Trusts' National Marine Week. Marine Week, which actually covers a fortnight, provides the opportunity to learn more about the marine wildlife local to you. There are lots going on including rockpool rambles, sea dipping, and shoresearch intertidal surveys. Highlights of the fortnight include Coastal Creations activities with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Mud Magic with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Secret Seashore with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and 10hour surveys out to the Farne Deeps to study white beaked dolphins, led by partners Northern Experience Wildlife Tours.

On Tuesday 6th August 2pm - 4pm
[Secret Seashore](#) at Gunton Warren near Lowestoft
Discover what lives on the shore and play the marine challenge game.

Other dates and locations run until 29th August 2013
<http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/node/10012>

Hedgehogs

Don't forget there is a lot of belief that hedgehogs are in rapid decline. If you see a hedgehog dead or alive please let us or the Suffolk wildlife trust know with your sightings and grid references. We will be looking out for signs of them at our AGM!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that all subscriptions are now due. If you wish to continue to support the Suffolk Badger & Other Mammals Group, and receive newsletters, and other information after this years AGM, please complete the slip below and return it together with a minimum donation of £5.00 (cheques made payable to "Suffolk Badger Group") to Martin Hancock, Treasurer, Suffolk Badger & Other Mammals Group, c/o SWT, Brooke House, Ashbocking, Ipswich, IP6 9JY or bring it along on the day of the AGM.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post code..... Email address.....

Donation.....

Thank you.