



Welcome to our second PCNR Network newsletter, a space for sharing updates, upcoming events and training, as well as seasonal tips and funding opportunities. We want this newsletter (and the Network!) to be shaped by you, so please let us know if there's anything you'd like to add or see in future issues.

Psst... this email works best if images are downloaded!



PCNR Network updates

Relaunch Event

On Saturday 6th July we hosted the **PCNR Network Relaunch** at Easton Village Hall, just outside of Wells. The event was attended by both current members and those interested in joining and it was great to see everyone sharing advice, knowledge and questions with other Network members.

We gave an update on the Network, including what's been happening over the past 18 months, current plans and how to get involved. We then had a talk from James Grisceff, Director of Nature Recovery, who explained how the PCNR Network is playing an important role in nature's recovery across Somerset and opportunities to build on this in the future.

Over lunch, there was an opportunity for attendees to introduce themselves to each other, and let us know what they'd like to see from the Network. This was followed by the option to either visit Chancellor's Farm for a guided tour from James Ozolins, Central Mendip Reserves Manager, or to stay in the village and have a tour of Easton Wildlife Group's community projects.

Thank you so much to everyone who came along, it was a lovely day and it was great to see members gathered in the same room. We had some great feedback and we are excited for what's to come!



Pond Management and problem solving

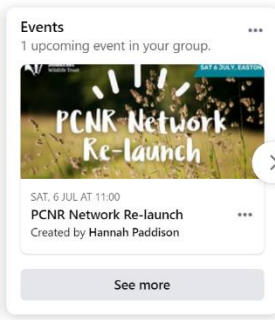
We are excited to be hosting a PCNR Network training event all about ponds and their management! The session will be led by **John Dickson**, Chairman of the Reptile and Amphibian Group for Somerset, on **Saturday 30th November, 10am - 2pm** at [Fyne Court](#).

Whether you're thinking of creating a pond on your reserve, have created one but are experiencing some issues, or are simply wondering what you can do to improve your current pond, then this is the workshop for you.

Starting at 10am, there will be a presentation from John with plenty of time to ask questions and share knowledge with other members of the Network. After a break for lunch, we will then take a short walk to the pond at Fyne Court to look at it's features and the wildlife present. There will be plenty of time during the day to chat to other Network members.

We would love to see you there!

Book now



PCNR Network Facebook group

We are pleased to launch and host a dedicated PCNR Network Facebook group. This seemed the simplest way to enable members to communicate directly with others. We hope this provides a space for sharing events, asking questions, seeking advice, celebrating successes and arranging site visits.

[Join here](#)



Public Consultation on Draft Beaver Management Strategy

After an absence of ~400 years, beavers are now back in Somerset. SWT has been commissioned to produce a Beaver Management Strategy for the county, and after significant research a draft Strategy has been produced.

We now need input and feedback on the draft, and as land owners and managers your opinion is really valuable. you can view the draft management strategy and the feedback survey here using the button below.

The survey shouldn't take more than 15 minutes to complete and can be done anytime before midnight on the 13th October 2024. We'd really appreciate your feedback!



Dates for your diary



Wilderness 2024 - Together for Nature in Somerset

Saturday 12th October, 11am - 3:30pm

A celebration event for individuals and communities across Somerset who want to create a wilderness future.

Nothing beats connecting in person, and the aim of this forum is to bring together people who are doing brilliant things for nature in Somerset, to share ideas and inspiration. Hear from communities and projects from across the county doing amazing wild things on their patches. Join in the Open Space session, with plenty of time for relaxed chat and ideas sharing followed by the opportunity to join an afternoon activity.

Our line-up of afternoon workshop are: "How can rewilding benefit communities?" with Julia Heal Rewilding. "Wildlife friendly community food growing" with Jess @Happy_Smallholding. "Youth Action", with Sian and the Youth Forum. "Active Hope", with Mark from SWT. "Grey, Green, Blue – reimagining our urban spaces", with the SWT community team.

Book now



Member updates

An update from Valerie and John Godsmark

I was very sorry that John and I were unable to attend the Re-launch event at Easton Village Hall on Saturday 6th July due to a clash of two other commitments.

News from Park Wood

This year in the woodland seems very different to last and we're not sure if it's because of changes in weather. Last year was the first we'd had a bounty of Blackberries so enjoyed a good amount of jam. It was also a year when we were very concerned by what we termed a "Plague" of Alder-leaf larvae in July to be followed by the beetles in August and September through to early this year. We were concerned that the Alder trees and others which were being attacked would defoliate, be unable to photosynthesise and die.



This year Brambles flowered early and didn't attract the bees and butterflies we would hope for. It's been a poor year for both taxa and our target species Silver-washed Fritillary has not been seen this year. That's a concern. The good news is that we didn't find a resurgence of the Alder-leaf beetle and the Alder trees seem to be doing well. It's a year when Nettles and other rank vegetation are thriving so some control is needed to encourage the diverse ground-flora of an Ancient woodland. Not an easy task.

This section of the newsletter is for members to share updates, whether that's something you've been up to on your site, an upcoming event you're hosting or a question you have for other Network members.

If you would like to include something in our next issue, which is due in January 2025, please email Hannah on teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org.



Reserve spotlight

Lyde Green, Norton St Philip

Our woodland and meadow reserve is on the edge of Norton St Philip and we invite you to visit and enjoy what we have achieved... and to share ideas and experience with us.

There are public footpaths with far reaching views across the upper half of the field, while access to the paths and glades in the woodland area can be arranged by contacting us.

We have transformed the four acre pasture into a thriving woodland by planting over five hundred broadleaf whips in 2014 and new or supplanted hedgerows in subsequent years. We are reinstating an ancient pond, creating a wetland area and learning by trial and error how to promote biodiversity and wildlife. The pictures below show our reserve in 2014 (left) and 2024 (right).

We have planted stand alone oak, holly and beech trees and gorse in the upper pasture, which is occasionally grazed by sheep or horses and cut or baled for hay every summer.

If you'd like to come and visit us, please contact Neil Pollard on 07581 343839 or Barbi Lund on 07846 335636. Parking is available or D2 bus from Bath. Ordnance Survey reference 72561.



Want your reserve to have a spotlight in an upcoming newsletter? Please get in touch! You can either submit information by [emailing](#) or giving Hannah a call on 07549 031412.

We ask that reserve spotlights are no more than 250 words long and include a photo. We'd love to hear about the wildlife you've seen at your reserves, challenges,

successes, things you're proud of, advice you'd give and future plans - anything you'd like to share about your reserve!

What's next?

We are looking forward to seeing some of you at the pond management workshop in November!

The next newsletter will be due in January, so if you have any events planned over the the Autumn and Winter or want to arrange visits with other members, we encourage you to post on the Facebook group. If you'd like to include anything in the next newsletter, please email teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org.

We hope you enjoyed this issue, if you have any feedback then we'd love to hear it!

The PCNR Network is hosted by Somerset Wildlife Trust, and Hannah is your key contact. You can get in touch by emailing teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org but to get in touch with other members, please use the [PCNR Network Facebook group](#).

HPaddison

Hannah Paddison

Volunteering & Community Support Officer

PCNR Relaunch - Emily Weatherburn, Facebook group - screen grab, Beaver - Adobe Stock, Wilder 2024 - Somerset wildlife Trust, Alder lead beetles - Valerie Godsmark, Lyde Green 2004 - Neil Pollard, Lyde Green 2024 - Neil Pollard.