

Curlew Action



Newsletter August 2022

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Natural History GCSE

After 11 years of campaigning led by our Director, Mary Colwell, a GCSE in Natural History was confirmed on the 21st of April 2022 (World Curlew Day!). Curlew Action is now moving into a new phase of the project, to ensure there is good uptake in schools across England and that there is engaging, inspiring training available to teachers. This subject should be available to everyone, and we will be working with teachers and schools, including inner city schools, to ensure they are given the support they need. The content for the GCSE is being decided by an advisory board, we hope to hear more in 2023.



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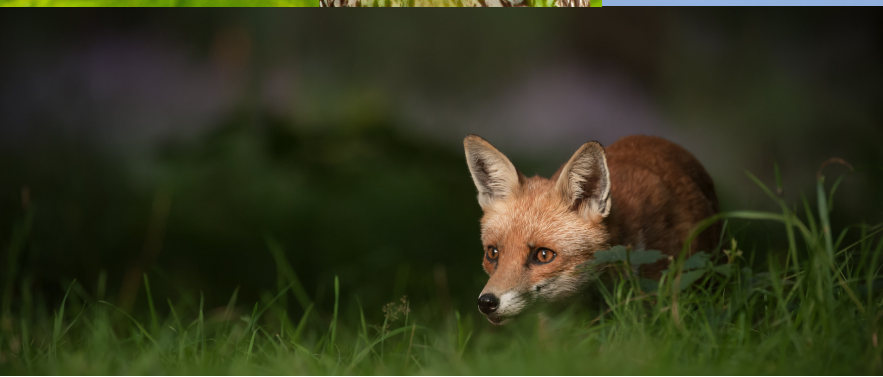
New team member!

A message from our head of Fundraising and Operations, Alex Morgan-Grenville: "After nearly two years at Curlew Action, I'm off to study for my MSc at Imperial College London. I have had the most amazing time working here - we have the best supporters of any charity out there, as well as a fun and inspirational team working behind the scenes to make it happen.

I will be replaced by the fantastic Hannah, who will be taking over much of the fundraising, business and operations management from me. She is a really passionate and capable individual, and Curlew Action is so lucky to have her as the charity grows and evolves.

I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunities, conversations and friendships that my time at Curlew Action has created. Thank you everybody so much!"

Thank you Alex, from the entire Curlew Action team. You've been wonderful to work with and we wish you all the best for the future, keep in touch!



Upcoming webinars

Curlews are caught in the crossfire of many of the conservation debates in the UK including predator control, forestry, and agricultural practices. These topics can be complex and emotive and therefore at times difficult to discuss openly. In our free webinar series Conservation: lessons from the Curlew, Curlew Action is working to address these topics by inviting expert speakers to join in discussion with our Director, Mary Colwell.

Our next two webinars will discuss Forestry (Wednesday 14th September, 18:30 - 20:00) and Predators (Thursday 13th October, 18:30 - 20:00), two of the biggest problems facing our Curlews. Our panels of experts will discuss the social and ecological complexities around Curlews, tree planting and the UK's generalist predators, Click [here](#) to find out more and get your free ticket.

International connections

Curlew Action is working to building a picture of Curlews across Europe; how the population looks in different countries, the significance of Curlew in different cultures, and how we can share information and resources to protect and restore Eurasian Curlew across their range. In August, our Director, Mary Colwell, spoke at a European meeting of Black-tailed Godwits and Curlew which was held in Papenburg, Germany, about the importance of social engagement and outreach in making conservation work. Curlew Action is currently in talks with an organisation in Finland and planning collaborative work.



New socks and a new partnership!

We're very excited to announce a new partnership with the UK based clothing company, HebTroCo! HebTroCo have already been great supporters of Curlew Action and even joined our Chair of Trustees on a leg of his 1,000 mile walk across Britain! Click [here](#) to find out more about their company and grab yourself some new Curlew socks!

"You'll look cute in these socks, people will want to be your friend and you'll make a real difference to one of the best birds in the world."

"Hebtroco is proud to partner up with the charity Curlew Action. They asked if we could make some funky socks, to raise money for the awareness raising and hands on conservation work that they do. Together we're aiming to save the UK's largest wading bird, which is now on the conservation red list."



**Don't curfew
the curlew**



Field worker's toolkit

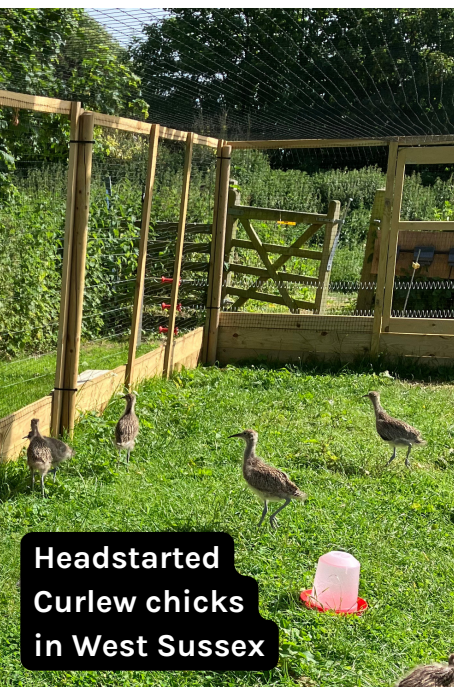
The Fieldworker's Toolkit is an essential resource for anyone starting or engaging with Curlew fieldwork. The toolkit comprises a series of useful factsheets that give advice on monitoring, identification, suggested equipment recording nests. The first five fact sheets are available [here](#).

The toolkit is the result of many thousands of hours of fieldwork by a great number of Curlew researchers without whom this would not have been possible. It is also the result of generous support from individuals and organisations who have donated. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Grocer's Charity for their support of the toolkit.



2022 Headstarting projects

Headstarting is a technique in which Curlew eggs are hatched in captivity, the young Curlews are raised in an artificial environment and released at fledging age. It is a process which is used to boost local populations and has been very successful with other species of waders such as Black-tailed Godwits. Please read our [June newsletter](#) for a thought piece on headstarting by Mary Colwell. About 130 captive Curlew chicks have been released this year at a number of sites across England, some of which have been fitted with GPS tags to allow researchers to monitor the movements of the young birds. The tags fall off once the juvenile feathers are replaced but for a crucial period they help to build a bigger picture of the movements of young headstarted Curlew. Researchers are still working to ascertain the best diet for headstarted Curlew, finding the right nutritional balance is prevents developmental problems such as angel wings. For more information on headstarting projects read this [Wader Tales blog post](#) by Graham Appleton.



Headstarted Curlew chicks in West Sussex



Headstarted chick in Shropshire. A Bicheno, Curlew Country

Incubators



Curlew eggs in incubator. A Bicheno, Curlew Country

Upcoming Event: GATHERING

Our Director, Mary Colwell, in conversation with our Patron, David Gray, about saving Britain's Curlews. Saturday 17th September. Wild Ken Hill, Norfolk. [Ticket available here.](#)



Upcoming Event: ACROSS A WALKING LAND: A 1,000 MILE WALK THROUGH A BRITISH SPRING

During the spring of 2022, author, Roger Morgan-Grenville undertook a 1,000-mile solo journey on foot from Lymington to Cape Wrath, partly to see for himself the state of Britain's natural heritage, and partly as an exercise in raising both funds and awareness for the charity Curlew Action.

Through Covid, blizzards, and physical obstacles, he reached Cape Wrath 57 days later, eleven kilos lighter but still remarkably free of blisters. On Tuesday 18th October, and by kind permission of Lord and Lady Cowdray, Roger will be telling the illustrated story of the walk, and of what he found, for the first time in Buck Hall at Cowdray House, in a special evening event designed to raise money for Curlew Action.

Tuesday 18th October, Cowdray House, Sussex. [Tickets available here.](#)



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Simon Griffiths prize draw

Simon Griffiths has very kindly donated a beautiful Curlew Sculpture and is offering it to the lucky winner of our first ever prize draw. For every £5 donated the donor's name will be entered into the draw, and all proceeds are being given by Simon to Curlew Action, to support our work of Curlew conservation.

"Being raised in the north Pennines the song of the curlew is the sound of spring, I cannot imagine the turning of the season without that melancholy, bubbling cry."

**Deadline for entries: 5pm 30th
September**

Winner announced: 3rd October

"I am a wildlife sculptor living and working in the North Pennines, County Durham.

As a child I spent as much time as possible in nature in the woods and fields near my home, exploring and drawing the British wildlife that lived within them, especially the animals and birds.

My sculpture comes from within me, and I have spent many years experimenting with different techniques and materials.

My work primarily stems from direct observation of the subject. The stylistic and constructional considerations are secondary to portraying the birds and animals as honestly as I can. This is not to say that I strive to make my work realistic in the literal sense, instead I seek to capture that sense of awareness that is present in all living things.

I am a proud member of the Society of Wildlife Artists. (SWLA)

Since being a small boy I have been a member of the RSPB wildlife and wetlands society and each year try to do my bit for charity by providing a sculpture to be auctioned for a different charity.

[Visit Simon's website](#) to learn more and see some of his work.



[CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)



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