



# Curlew Action

## Newsletter January 2021

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Photo credit: Les Bunyan

### **Music legend, David Gray, becomes our new patron**

Singer-songwriter David Gray, like the curlew, is well-known for his iconic British sound. He has released some of the UK's best loved albums, as well as being a great supporter of our efforts to save the curlew, and now has very kindly agreed to become our patron. He had this to say: "I am delighted to become a Patron of Curlew Action. These are desperate times for wildlife, but the idea of losing magical birds like the curlew from our landscape is just more than my heart can bear. Curlew Action are all about funding protective and educational efforts but on a localised level, and it's inspiring to see the difference that that can make. I'm extremely honoured to be involved and will be rolling up my sleeves with the rest of the team in order to try to preserve a prosperous future for these magnificent creatures." We can't wait to work closely with David in future conservation efforts. Until then, **head over to our website** where you can check out the beautiful film he made for us last year underlining the importance of the curlew. Follow the link at bottom to listen to a wonderful podcast, in which **David talks eloquently with Mary Colwell** about the ways in which the curlew has influenced and deepened his worldview.



# World Curlew Day Art & poem competition

The curlew has long been celebrated in art and writing, so we have set up a fun competition for our supporters, to celebrate the coming of World Curlew Day on April 21st. We are looking for poems and pieces of art or craft of any type that we can share with our many followers. The poem, which can be in any style, should be no more than 14 lines long, and touch on the importance of saving our breeding curlews. The art, which can be in any medium, should simply show what the artist sees in the curlew and a photo of your work should be sent to [ellen@curlewaction.org](mailto:ellen@curlewaction.org). There are two categories: Over 16 and Under 16. Our three favourite poems in both categories will be read by some of our celebrity supporters and then embedded in our website and our social media. Our three favourite artworks will be shown in our virtual gallery, and offered for sale if desired, with the artist fully recognised.



Curlew cottage design

George Shannon



Andrew Ellis

## Curlew Kiltwalks



This year, we plan to take part in the 'Kiltwalk', a sponsored walk for which The Hunter Foundation will match 50% of any donations to your chosen charity. This means it is an unmissable opportunity to raise vital funds to protect our curlews. The only catch: you have to wear a bit of tartan! For inspiration, one of our volunteers got on his bike last year and drew a curlew with his strava route. Would you like to take part? Or perhaps plan a kiltwalk of your own? We would be thrilled to hear from you via our contact details on the front page of this newsletter.



# Curlew Art

Have you seen the wonderful paintings and cards for sale on our website? We're honored to be working with such excellent artists, and if you want to get your hands on some of their work, with a share of the proceeds going to Curlew Action, please do have a look on our website.



Mark Gibbs Note Cards

A pack of 5 note cards with envelopes, by artist Mark Gibbs.

£7.95



Jessica Holm Postcards

A pack of 10 postcards, by artist Jessica Holm.

£7.95



## 'Schrödinger's Curlew'

*On the face of it, there isn't much about this bird  
To stop me in my tracks.*

*Brown, oblivious, busy with the ground  
It totters along on stilted legs  
Probing among frozen fields.*

*And then, untouched by my musings  
The bird spreads its wings and lifts,  
Naming itself, with a long, pure note*

*And my heart, in two states,  
Leaps  
and breaks.*



## What is this all in aid of?



Ultimately, all of our fundraising and awareness raising come back to one thing: conservation. Curlew Action is all about people getting stuck in and making a real difference to the lives of curlews around the UK and the world. If you want to see where your donation to Curlew Action goes, follow the link at the bottom to see the projects described on our website. Can you help us? We are in real need of donations for our fieldworkers toolkit, **please support our work.** Follow the link at the bottom to our **donation page.** Your donation could really make a difference.

Want to get involved? Whether you want to do something for World Curlew Day, or have a bright new fundraising idea, we would love to hear from you! Get in touch at [ellen@curlewaction.org](mailto:ellen@curlewaction.org)