

# Curlew Action



December newsletter 2023

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Merry  
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## Christmas cards – last orders!



The last date for Royal Mail second class deliveries post is on Monday 18 December, so get your orders in asap to receive your Christmas cards from us in time for Christmas!

- Pack of 5 with two designs: Christmas Curlews and Barn Owls cards (150x 150mm)
- Pack of 5 of the Winter Curlews Christmas cards (A6 size)

## A Call For Nature

Mike Matthews from A Call For Nature has kindly chosen Curlew Action as his Charity of the Month for November. A Call For Nature are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year and they have been raising funds for conservation through the sale of conservation themed apparel since 2013.

£2 will be donated to Curlew Action from each sale of his entire range of t-shirts and hoodies and to help promote this, Mike has designed 3 new t-shirts featuring the Eurasian Curlew which are available in several colours and styles and even an hoodie, which is ideal as the colder nights start drawing in.



Mike said that he is delighted to work with Curlew Action as the curlew is such an iconic species which is sadly decreasing in numbers. So he's hoping that by adding the curlew to his range of designs he can draw awareness to the plight of the curlew and make people proud to wear a t-shirt showcasing this magnificent bird. You can purchase these t-shirts and other designs in the range by visiting [www.ACallForNature.co.uk](http://www.ACallForNature.co.uk)



## Webinars and events

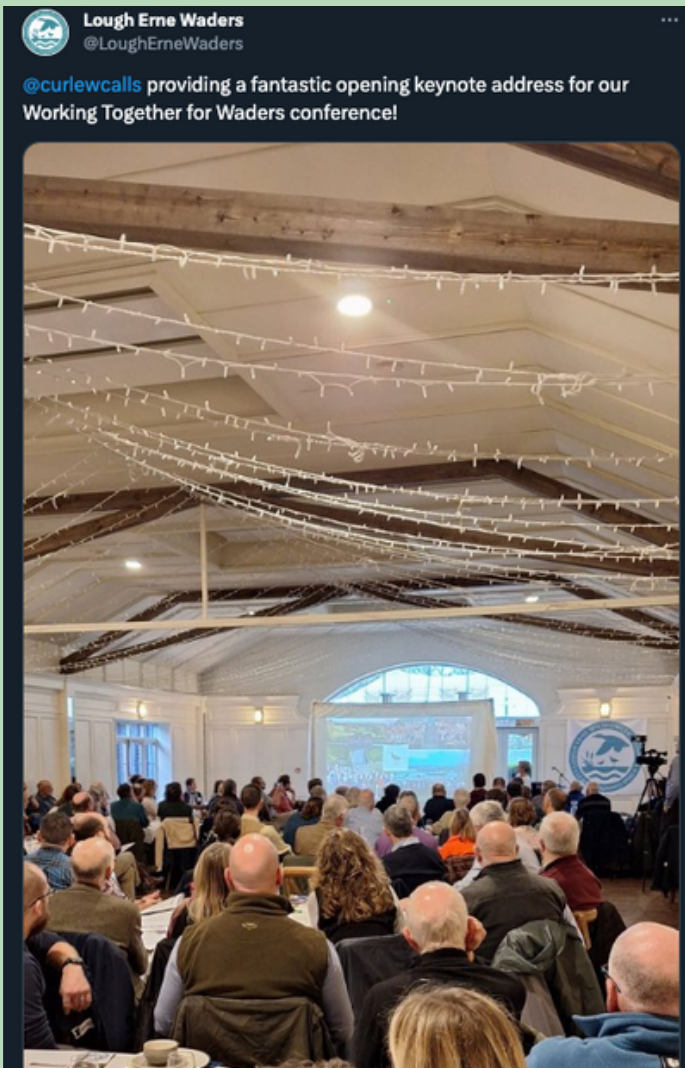


In our final webinar of 2023, chaired by Curlew Action trustee Russell Wynn, we heard from Curlew projects around the UK on their successes and challenges they have faced this year. The full webinar is [available to watch on our YouTube channel](#).

Our first webinar of 2024 will take a look at the impact of energy production on Curlews, waders, and other wildlife, and will take place on Wednesday 17 January 18.30-22.00. [Book your free ticket on Eventbrite](#).



In November, Mary gave a keynote speech at the [Working Together for Waders](#) conference, an important event which showcased partnership projects to help waders in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It was sold out and had a waiting list. Mary says:



“Curlews across the whole of Ireland are in a desperate state. There could be fewer than 400 pairs left across the whole island. Rapid intensification of farmland, destruction of bogs, high levels of predation and forestry are taking a huge toll. It was therefore so good to see people from both the North and South come together for a whole day to discuss what can be done and how much more the two countries can cooperate. Partnership and cooperation were the words of the day.

The setting was a hotel which has taken over the small island of Lusty Beg in Lough Erne. It is only accessible by a small ferry and located near the larger Boa Island, now connected to the mainland by a causeway. It must have been a wild place once, but today it is a luxury lodge-style holiday destination. The water, though, is always misty, mysterious and peaceful and I appreciated its serenity.”

Also in November, WWT's [Slimbridge Wetland Centre](#) in Gloucestershire once again kindly hosted to annual [Curlew Forum](#) get-together. The Forum is a unique gathering of lowland Curlew projects to discuss their work and find out how each other are fairing in the challenging conditions of lowland farmland. A record of the day will be available in the new year, but suffice to say the breeding success is still very low, around half what it should be for a sustainable population.

In short, we still have a lot of work to do re silage and predation in particular. Both these issues are hot topics in the formation of the new ELM (Environmental Land Management schemes) being formed right now in DEFRA. Curlew Action is actively part of those discussions and we will pass on developments when we can.



On Tuesday 12 December, Mary was one of two speakers for the online launch of the Curlew River film by Wild Oxfordshire. The film is available to [watch on YouTube](#), and there is a [dedicated donation site](#) for the Upper Thames Curlew Recovery project.

## David Gray original artwork



A massive thank you to everyone who took part in and shared our eBay auction for David Gray's 'Enter Lightly No.7', and congratulations to the winning bidder in Yorkshire.

The auction was a huge success and raised £3,100, with all the proceeds going directly to Curlew Action. David Gray kindly signed the piece before it was sent off to the winner - who is both a fan of David and his music, and a Curlew lover!



# European Curlew Fieldworker Workshop



From the 9-11th of February 2024, Curlew Action is hosting a workshop for Eurasian Curlew fieldworkers from across Europe at [The Red Barn](#) in Norfolk.

This meeting is a unique opportunity for fieldworkers to develop an international community and to exchange field techniques and solutions to problems learned from decades of collective experience working with breeding Curlew.

The weekend will include talks from the international community and a series of active discussions covering the following topics:

- Nesting including pre-nesting, monitoring and fencing
- Curlew chicks including monitoring, ringing and tagging
- Habitat management including cutting
- Dealing with loss - the emotional challenges of working with a declining species
- Predator management
- Working with volunteers and landowners

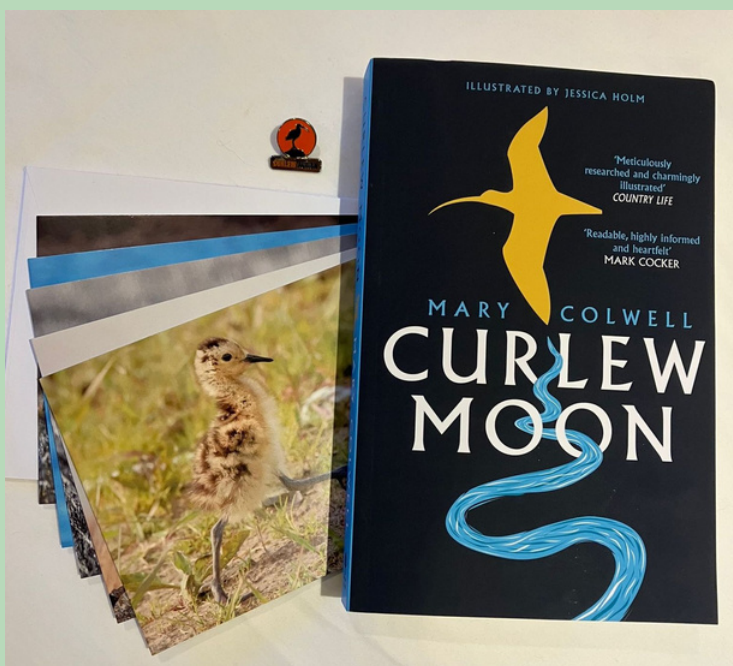
If you are a Curlew fieldworker and are interested in attending the workshop please contact Ellen, [ellen@curlewaction.org](mailto:ellen@curlewaction.org). We have a small budget to support travel expenses for those who need it.

# Aviva Community Fund

We are thrilled to have [a match funded project on the Aviva Community Fund website](#). We are raising money for our European Curlew Fieldworker Workshop.

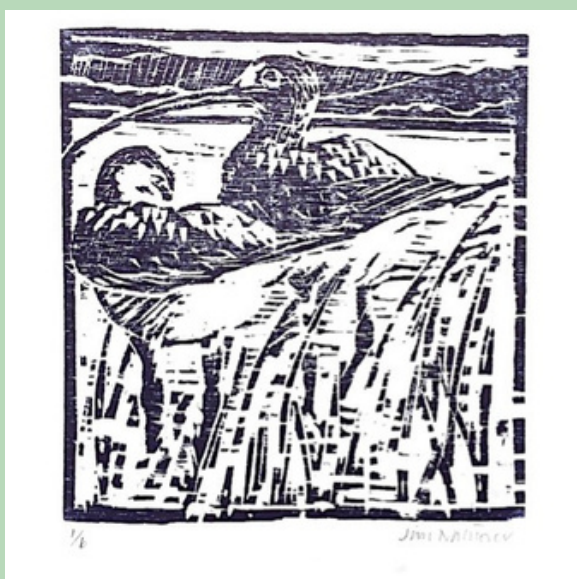
Earlier this month, we reached our initial target of £15,000, and are now looking for stretch funding to help us bring even more fieldworkers to the workshop. There are 17 days left to fundraise via this fund, so please do share it with your friends and fellow nature lovers.

Every single £1 is essential and we are offering some exciting curlew-themed rewards which could make a beautiful Christmas present for a nature-loving friend. For those who are able to give larger pledges, please get in touch with us so we can discuss what we can offer to you and your organisation.



## Rewards to claim:

- £40 or more: mini Curlew sculpture by Sarah Brabbin and badge
- £65 or more: Jim Northover print and signed book
- £100 or more: Curlew gift pack
- £150 or more: Curlew sculpture by Sarah Brabbin and gift set





## Wader Quest update

At this year's AGM the trustees of Wader Quest announced that each year the charity will be focussing on an individual species and in 2024 that species would be the Eurasian Curlew, while other funding and collaborations would continue around the world.



The reasons behind choosing this species were obvious. Firstly Wader Quest is a UK-based charity and the Curlew represents the most urgent conservation issue among British waders. Secondly it would give us the opportunity to work more closely with Curlew Action, which has done so much already for British breeding Curlews.

We have already made some Curlew related donations and grants, starting with a donation to Mary Colwell back in 2016 for her Curlew Walk across Britain. Since then, we have funded incubators , banners, volunteer packs, electric fences and trail cameras and part funded conferences concerning and research into the species. The Wader Quest anniversary grant in 2022 was won by Alicia Hayden who is making a film about the Curlew and its problems.



With this behind us and a recent grant to part fund the European Curlew Fieldworker Workshop in February 2024, which we hope to attend, we are greatly looking forward to working more closely with the teams up and down the country, and especially with Curlew Action, trying to help this wonderful species survive in modern Britain.