



Curlew Action



Issue 04, 2025

In This Issue

Farewell to Megan

Events Recap

Upcoming Events

Merchandise Spotlight

Request for Footage

Vote for Curlew Action

Webinar 3 September

Opportunities

Curlew Moment



A Curlew flock at RSPB Arne.

(Photo by Megan Seekings)

Curlew Action is a small charity that largely depends on individual donations. We need your support to continue our unique work for Curlews and the wildlife that shares their habitats.

By donating to us, you are helping us act quickly and efficiently, supporting the conservation of these beautiful, endangered birds.



EMAIL: admin@curlewaction.org

SOCIAL MEDIA: [@CurlewAction](https://www.instagram.com/CurlewAction)

WEBSITE: [curlewaction.org](https://www.curlewaction.org)

DONATE TO SUPPORT CURLEW ACTION

Farewell to Megan

Curlew Action would like to say a big thank you to our Digital Lead, Megan Shersby, who is moving on to work with the Wildlife Trust to coordinate talks and events. It's been wonderful to have her as a core part of the team for over two years, and we wish her every success in the future. We know she will keep flying that Curlew flag!



Events Recap

Latitude Festival

40,000 go to chill out at Latitude Festival and Mary was there for 2 events, both chaired by Guardian journalist, Patrick Barkham. The first was a panel with naturalist, Nick Acheson and RSPB Suffolk Area Manager, Adam Rowlands. They discussed the power of birds and why we find them so appealing. The second event was with author, Emily Buchanan, examining activism and what it takes to shift the political dial. It was energising and inspiring to be at a music and events festival and talk to such a wide range of engaged and engaging people.



Over 10,000 people attended the premiere regenerative farming weekend, Groundswell, and Mary gave a talk entitled "Can Curlews live in farmland?" This is such a complex and important topic and it was good to have a supportive and engaged audience. Farmers are the key to the future of Curlews across Europe and we welcome any opportunity to meet with them.



Global Birdfair

We had a brilliant time at Rutland Water's Global Birdfair this year, as ever! We met up with supporters old and new and were happy to see the popularity of some of our new merchandise, including [tie dye t-shirts](#), stickers and [water bottles](#), which may explain why we had our most successful year yet in terms of funds raised – thank you to everyone who bought and donated.

It was a busy Birdfair for Mary who was involved in five different events including talks about Curlews and the Natural History GCSE, a panel discussion entitled 'The Impact of American Nationalism and Isolationism under Trump on global cooperation to tackle the climate and nature crisis', an interview with The Casual Birder podcast, and Into The Wild's 'Nature Room 101' on-stage podcast, with some surprising statements made (see next page)!

We also enjoyed seeing people of all ages take part in our 'Pin the Beak on the Curlew' game which was first introduced on World Curlew Day, with the chance of each day's winner getting a pair of gorgeous [HebTroCo socks](#) (available in 'Heather Purple' or 'Moorland Green').

A special thank you to artist, [Liz Toole](#), who donated a beautiful piece of Curlew artwork for our competition. Congratulations to Jamie Kingscott (pictured above with artwork) who was our lucky winner!

It brings joy to see the love that people have for Curlews. If you are reading our newsletter for the first time after signing up at Birdfair, then a very big welcome to you!



Into the Wild Podcast

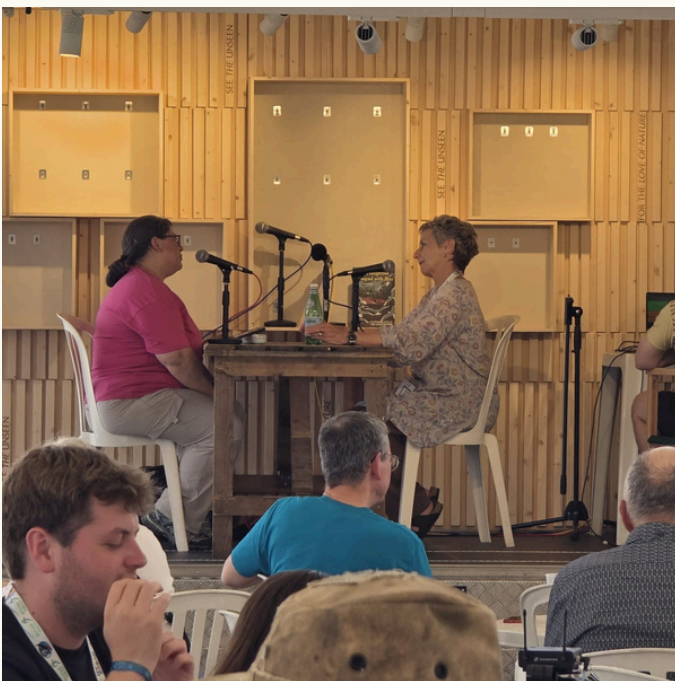
A highlight of Global Birdfair this year was Mary's appearance on Into the Wild Podcast's, Nature Room 101. Hosts, Ryan Dalton and Nadia Shaikh invited Mary, Megan McCubbin and Simon King onto the stage to discuss what parts of nature they would put into Room 101. You might be surprised to hear what Mary decided to lock in the vault!

You can listen to the live recording now and find out more about [Into the Wild](#).



(Photos by Oscar Henderson)

Casual Birder Podcast



(Photo by Charlie Bingham)

Mary was part of the brilliant line up on the Swarovski sponsored Whinchat Podcasting Stage. Mary appeared on the [Casual Birder Podcast](#) with host Suzy Buttress.

The Casual Birder Podcast is a great show that brings together birding enthusiasts from around the world. You can listen to the show on all major podcasting platforms!

Events - upcoming

Migfest

We're excited to announce that Curlew Action will be at this year's Spurn Migration Festival (Migfest) from 12 - 14 September! Come and visit* our stand to learn more about Curlew conservation, pick up some new merch, and chat with our team about how you can get involved. It's a fantastic weekend celebrating bird migration on the Yorkshire coast. We can't wait to see you there!



*Migfest is sold out for 2025, so you can only visit if you already have a ticket!

GEM Conference

Mary will give a keynote at the [GEM conference](#) in Leeds, the Group for Education in Museums. These wonderful and widespread places of learning and connection will be vital for helping deliver the forthcoming GCSE in Natural History. We look forward to meeting everyone and exploring how best museums can be involved in nature education.

Communicate 2025

Communicate is the UK's leading conference for environmental communicators, taking place in person and online during autumn each year. This year it is running from 25 - 27 November online and in person. Mary will be giving the keynote talk in Bristol. [Tickets are available to buy now.](#)

International Wader Study Group (IWSG) Conference



At the end of September our General Manager, Flo, will be attending the [2025 IWSG conference](#) in Groningen, The Netherlands, and will be giving a talk entitled 'Lessons in Diplomacy - What Curlew Conservation Has Taught Me'. The IWSG conference is a four-day conference which Curlew Action has attended and spoken at in recent years, and brings together over 200 wader experts and ecologists from around the world. Last year's event, in Montpellier, was attended by Mary and a Curlew Action trustee, at which Mary did a talk about leadership in conservation, and wrote [this blog entry](#) about the conference.

Curlew Forum, WWT Slimbridge

The Curlew Forum is a loose association of lowland Curlew projects which emerged out of the Curlew conference held at WWT Slimbridge in Gloucestershire in 2017. Each year we get together to assess how Curlews have done across farmed areas and take the chance to discuss shared issues. This year's meeting is in Slimbridge on October 29th and we always look forward to attending it and meeting people who run such vital projects.



(Photo by WWT)

Merchandise Spotlight Competition

This month, we are mixing things up a bit and instead of just spotlighting our merchandise, we want YOU to spotlight it for us!

We are looking for photos that we can use to promote our merch and we love nothing more than to see you wearing yours! Mary has provided us with a great example here!

So either send us a photo or tag us on social media, of you wearing your Curlew Action merchandise and you could be in with a chance of winning a signed copy of our Outreach and Events Lead, Charlie Bingham's book, *The Life Affirming Magic of Birds*.



Email images to charlie@curlewaction.org

World Curlew Day Cards

We are excited to tell you that we have brand new cards available in our [Curlew Action shop](#) and these cards are very special!

For World Curlew Day 2025 we ran our usual art competition, this year to design a new card for us to sell, and now the two winning pieces of art, and one of the 'highly commended' pieces, can be purchased as cards! These colourful and fun cards are perfect for all manner of occasions and come in packs of five, so why not stock up and be prepared for all of your friends' birthdays!



Artwork by Benjamin Fallow
(Under 16s winner)



Artwork by Milly Rudling
(Over 16s winner)



Artwork by Alex King
(Over 16s 'Highly Commended')

Curlews & Climate Change Webinar - 3 September

Join us at 6.30pm on Wednesday 3rd September for our next webinar, which will be on Curlews and Climate Change. Chaired by our very own Chair of Trustees David Hill, and with confirmed speakers including

- Harry Ewing, a Research Ecologist for the BTO whose primary roles include conducting fieldwork in Breckland (East Anglia), and coordinating data collection, analysis and reporting
- James Pearce-Higgins, Director of Science with the BTO
- Daniela Reich, a Research Associate with the Biological Station Zwillbrock in Germany for the "LIFE Meadow Birds NRW" project

It will be an informative evening on the changes being seen by conservationists and ecologists in different Curlew habitats, and how things are expected to change into the future.

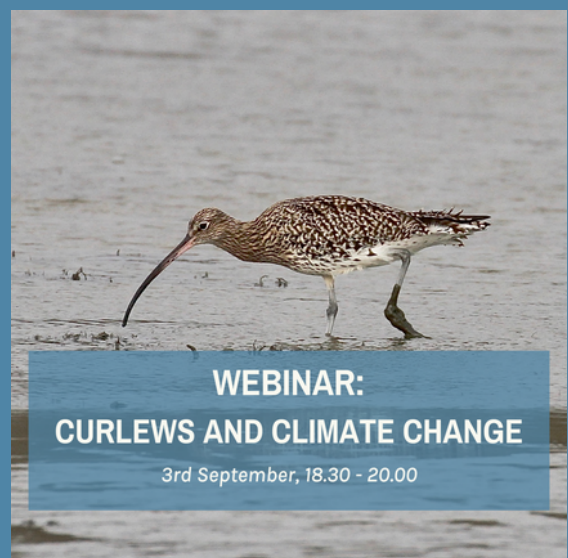
You can [book here](#), and the meeting link will be sent to you before the event. All of our webinars are free, but we rely on donations and would be grateful if you would consider supporting us when you book, or donate [here](#). All of our webinars are recorded and can be viewed on [our YouTube channel](#).

After our Curlews & Climate Change webinar we plan to hold our annual UK Season Round-Up and Europe Season Round-Up webinars in October and November respectively. This will be followed by our first ever headstarting round up webinar, which we plan to introduce as a yearly event, a follow on from the successful February 2025 [Online Headstarting Workshop](#).

Our schedule for the remaining 2025 webinars is:

- October 2025 UK Breeding Roundup
- November 2025 European Breeding Season
- December 2025 Headstarting Roundup

If you have a suggestion for a topic for us to cover in 2026, or are an expert interested in contributing to a webinar, please e-mail admin@curlewaction.org



Ambassadors

We are pleased to announce that we are bringing our ambassador programme back! To create a more meaningful and engaged experience for our ambassadors, we're re-launching our ambassador programme with a smaller group. In the past, limited capacity and a large number of ambassadors made it challenging to connect with individuals as closely as we had hoped. With this new approach, we're excited to build stronger relationships and involve our ambassadors more deeply in the work of the charity, but we welcome past ambassadors to continue to fly the flag for Curlew Action, and you are very welcome to apply to our re-launched programme.

We are looking for people who are passionate about Curlews to help us to spread the message about them far and wide. We need people who may be willing to represent Curlew Action at events, do talks about Curlew Action's work, talk about us across social media and much more! But don't worry if you've not done this kind of thing before or don't have a big social media following, we still want to hear from you as we feel you all have wonderful skills to offer! Whether you are new to Curlew Action or have been a Curlew Action ambassador previously, we welcome you to apply.

Please [fill in this form](#) and we will be in touch. If you have any questions, either drop us a message on social media or email charlie@curlewaction.org



(Photo by Malcolm Black)

Winter Spine Race

Fancy running 268 miles, non-stop, along the Pennine way in the middle of winter? No? Really? Well, neither do we.

That's why we think you should support the wonderful David, who has decided to do exactly that to raise money for charity, including Curlew Action! The Montane Winter Spine Race, as it is called, is considered 'Britain's most brutal endurance race'. With a time limit of 168 hours (seven days) and a brutal 13km+ of elevation, it is a true test of physical and mental resilience, not least because of the wintry conditions in January!

When asked about the challenge, David said, "I think we all share an urgent responsibility to help reverse the decline that has happened on our watch. Just like tackling the Spine Race, this will require resilience, patience, persistent determination and great teamwork. The challenge may feel insurmountable at times, but if we keep putting one foot in front of the other, we will get there and the rewards are immeasurable."

We will be posting more about David's journey and why he chose to support Curlew Action nearer the time. This race is no doubt extremely tough, so please show your awe and appreciation by donating on David's very own [Curlew Action sponsorship page here.](#)



(Photo by Wild Aperture)



REQUEST FOR FOOTAGE

We are trying to build up our bank of Curlew videos and photographs that we can use across social media, advertisement and at events.

If you are a keen Curlew fan and have any images or videos you'd like to share with us and you're happy for us to use with credit, then please email them in.

You don't have to be an award winning photographer or filmmaker, we think sometimes the best footage and images are those captured in the moment of excitement!

Email charlie@curlewaction.org



Photo by Caroline Legg

Curlew Moment of the Month

We are launching a new feature called, 'Curlew Moment of the Month' where we share your best Curlew moments! To kick us off, we have this impressive flock of Curlews spotted by Megan Seekings at RSPB Arne. This comes at a time when birds are starting to move to their wintering locations, and it's clear from this image that Curlews are definitely getting ready for the cooler months! Email charlie@curlewaction.org or tag us on social media to feature!



(Photo by Megan Seekings)

Help us with Aviva match funding!

Keep an eye out on our social media from 1 September for our Aviva 2026 European Curlew Fieldworker Workshop fundraiser! Aviva Community Fund has kindly accepted us to help raise money, and we need your help!

The fundraiser runs from 1st September for a period of six weeks, and Aviva match fund any donation up to £250! We are also offering some wonderful incentives available for different donation amounts. Some are unique and only available on a first-come-first-serve basis, so make sure to get in in good time!

Some of the incentives are pictured below and include some beautiful artwork by artists like Sarah Brabbin, and a Curlew print signed by our Patron, David Gray.



Easyfundraising

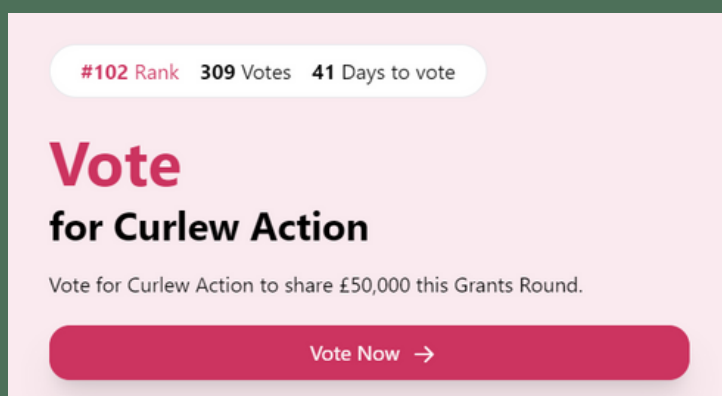
We have joined easyfundraising so now your online purchases can make a difference to Curlews. Over 8000 retailers are signed up to be a part of this amazing initiative and all you have to do is sign up for FREE and choose Curlew Action as your cause. Then, for every purchase you make online, the retailers will donate a percentage directly to us! To find out more and sign up, [visit the website](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk).



MY GIVING CIRCLE

My Giving Circle is a platform where users can vote for their favourite charities to be in with a chance of winning a grant! It's free to join and we have had over 300 votes already but we still need your help to be in with a chance of winning the next grant.

[Visit the website to find out more and vote.](https://www.mygivingcircle.co.uk)



POLICY

Update on ELMs

Environmental policy is key to creating the landscape scale change that Curlews and other ground nesting birds require. We are still in the transition phase from the pre to post Brexit support for farmers called ELMs (Environmental Land Management Schemes). The lowest of the three tiers, Sustainable Farming Incentive, has been closed since March due to budget restrictions. The next tier, Countryside Stewardship Plus will open for applications in September pending the government spending review. This will reward collaborative efforts by farmers and is key to the future of Curlew.

Landscape Recovery is the highest tier of ELM and funds large scale projects. Rounds 1 and 2 projects are still in development and lessons learned from those will inform Round 3, which is expected to open in 2026; we will keep you updated. [The DEFRA blog](#) is a good place to keep an eye on developments.

Opportunities

RSPB is recruiting for a [Project Officer](#) in North West Wales, closing on Thursday 4th September.



“We are seeking a passionate wildlife conservationist to work with project partners, land managers, local people and volunteers to secure a long-term future for these species in Wales as part of Natur am Byth. Natur am Byth unites nine environmental charities and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to deliver the country’s largest natural heritage and people engagement programme to save species from extinction and connect people to nature.”

This role includes working to create and protect Curlew nesting and foraging habitat.

If you have a Curlew-related job vacancy or volunteer opportunity that you would like be featured in this newsletter, please e-mail admin@curlewaction.org with the details.