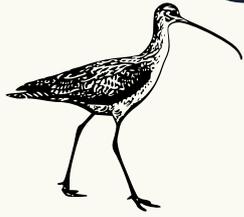


Curlew Action



Newsletter - Issue 01, 2026



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EMAIL: admin@curlewaction.org

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WEBSITE: curlewaction.org



Photo: European Curlew Fieldworker Workshop - Richard Bunce

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.

DONATE TO SUPPORT CURLEW ACTION

A Message from Curlew Action



Photo: John Ibbotson

As we march forwards into 2026, we have many plans coming up. For World Curlew Day we are planning a family day in West Yorkshire, including a walk on the moors, local bands, as well as David Gray in conversation with presenter, Robin Ince. There will be live music!

We are also visiting Curlew projects in Germany, Austria and Scotland as well as attending Global Birdfair, Groundswell Agriculture Festival and Spurn Migration Festival. We continue to work for policy changes and practical support for Curlew conservation through the Curlew Recovery Partnership.

Later in the year we will be gearing up for the next Fieldworker Workshop in February 2027, which will be online and will delve into the thorny topic of predator management. Keep an eye on the newsletter for many more details on what we are doing throughout the year.

Welcome to Sarah!

At the beginning of December we welcomed Sarah to Curlew Action, who has taken on the role of Fundraiser. Sarah has worked in environmental conservation organisations on and off since 2001, in various roles including administration, training, campaigns and most recently institutional fundraising. Her motivation comes from a desire for justice for and protection of the natural world and all its inhabitants.

Outside of work, Sarah is a Japan enthusiast having lived there twice for over seven years in total and can 'Bore for Britain' on the subject.

We are excited to welcome Sarah, whose wealth of knowledge and strategic thinking & skills will no doubt help us to improve our capacity to fund our work. We are very pleased to have her and we hope you will join us in welcoming her to the Curlew (Action) family!



SAVE THE DATE!

Curlew Action is holding its 2026 World Curlew Day celebration in Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire on Saturday 18 April. Stay tuned for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENT: World Curlew Day Virtual Sponsored Walk

With 21 April 2026 marking both the tenth World Curlew Day and the tenth anniversary of Mary's 500-mile Curlew Walk, we wanted to celebrate by inviting people to take on an ambitious walking challenge of their own. On 1 April 2026 we will launch a Virtual Sponsored Walk through the fitness website and app 'My Virtual Mission', enabling supporters to take part in a virtual walk/run/swim/cycle from anywhere in the world.

Teams (or individuals) will aim to travel 500 miles over a set period (by walking the dog, taking a daily stroll, cycling or exercising in some other way) using the My Virtual Mission app to log daily distances. The app will track progress along a virtual map showing the route of Mary's 500-mile Curlew walk in 2016, showing how far each team has travelled, and helping participants to stay motivated and mark their progress. Everyone is welcome: you can join a team, form your own, or simply walk what you can—the full 500 miles is a shared goal per team, not an individual requirement (unless you want it to be!).

Each team will pay a small entry fee of around £7 and then be encouraged to seek sponsorship from friends and family, raising funds to support Curlew Action's work. With National Walking Day on 1 April being the first day of the virtual walk, and the month of May being National Walking Month, along with the Curlew breeding season beginning, this is the perfect time to get outdoors, perhaps even hearing Curlews returning to nesting grounds as you walk.

We'll share full details very soon, but if you'd like to register your interest now, please email charlie@curlewaction.org and we'll keep you updated.

World Curlew Day Competitions

In 2026 we are once again holding our World Curlew Day art and poetry competitions! As 2026 marks ten years since Mary's 500 mile Curlew walk, the theme for the competitions this year is 'celebratory'.

Competition categories for both art and poetry are: Primary School, High School, and Adult. Please let us know which category you are entering when you send your entry to flo@curlewaction.org. The deadline for entries is midnight of 10 April 2026, and winners will be revealed on World Curlew Day. Prizes for the Adult and High School category will be a pair of Curlew socks of a new design which we are currently working with a company on selling, and a new Curlew colouring book for the Primary School age category entrants! Your design will also be featured on our social media, website, and possibly in other places in the future. Entry gives Curlew Action permission to use your piece in our Comms.

Please send all entries in PDF, JPG or PNG format. Some past entries:

*Cute, spotty and big, their bills long and curved
Unmistakable, energetic and warbly their cry is
Ripples in waters, they know food is there
Long journeys they go through and loss of habitat
Endangered curlews, less than 60,000 pairs left in the UK
Wading through water and looking for food and shelter
Save our curlews they need help desperately*



*It is bog and rush and asphodel,
Ecstasy and heartbreak.
Parted from the marsh
With searing cry.
All its unbearable loss
Suspended in a song.*



Curlew Christmas Fundraiser Results

In January, our amazing supporter David Padmore took on the legendary Winter Spine Race. It was an extraordinary 268-mile run along the Pennine Way, often described as Britain's most brutal endurance challenge.

Thanks to your amazing support, David raised an incredible £3,092 for Curlew Action! We want to take this moment to say a HUGE thank you to David for taking on the challenge in order to raise vital funds for Curlew Action.

If you are interested in fundraising for us, please get in touch with sarah@curlewaction.org.



 MONTANÉ

SPINE

WINTER RACES

Events Update

2026 hit the ground running. Only a few weeks in and we have been involved in the launch of the UK Curlew Action Plan, a nature education day at The Lost Gardens of Heligan on 2 Feb, and hosted our European Curlew Fieldworker Workshop. Sir Tim Smit, who founded the Eden Centre and recovered the Heligan gardens wrote:

“On Monday, surrounded by some of the people we admire most in all the world, the Heligan team opened the doors to launch the Centre for Nature Futures, which is dedicated to making the natural world visible to all. There was passion, anger, curiosity and love, but most of all commitment to not allow natural history to be seen as a vanilla subject by the grey beards of Whitehall. From the roiling mass of bright-eyed people came a murmur that grew to a roar. We shall be stewards, guardians, guides and teachers. Nurturers, protectors and champions for nature. And we shall be loud until everybody hears. To love nature is to love ourselves and to understand nature is to understand what it is to be human. In the morning we woke up and realised it was a new day, a new dawn and here in our beloved Cornwall, a revolution had begun. Join us.”

This is just the start of what promises to be another year of concerted action to help Curlews recover and to engage not only conservationists but also society more widely in protecting nature.



Action Plan Launch Event

The launch of the UK Curlew Action Plan at the House of Lords marked, we hope, a pivotal moment for the future of the Eurasian Curlew. Bringing together scientists, conservation organisations, land managers and policymakers, the event underscored both the urgency of the species' continued decline and the plans to reverse it.

The Action Plan sets out a clear, evidence-based framework for recovery: strengthening habitat management, supporting farmers and landowners, improving monitoring, and applying targeted, science-led measures to increase breeding success. It also calls for stronger collaboration across sectors to ensure efforts are aligned and delivered at scale.

The launch signalled not just concern, but commitment; a shared resolve to move from discussion to decisive action.

You can read more about the launch [here](#).



European Curlew Fieldworker Workshop, 2026 Roundup

The 2026 European Curlew Fieldworker Workshop was a great success, and we would like to give a huge thanks to everyone who contributed their time and expertise, we could not do this important event without you. The workshop was hosted at Lancaster University and brought together an extraordinary mix of practitioners, scientists, conservationists and volunteers from across Europe, as well as educators and a classical musician – all united by one aim, to improve the breeding success for Curlews across their range.



Over three days, delegates shared results from lowland and upland landscapes and discussed fledging rates, predation pressures and habitat interventions. There were illuminating presentations from many different countries as well as the science behind egg failures. We looked at the use of thermal drones and conservation apps, predator management and working with forestry. There were also intense and personal sessions on the experience of ecological grief and on the experience of women working in fieldwork.

While Curlew productivity remains below the level needed for population stability in many areas, several projects reported encouraging gains where habitat management, farmer engagement and targeted predator control are aligned. The workshop reinforced the importance of long-term monitoring, open data sharing and practical support for those working on the ground. Above all, it demonstrated that the European Curlew community is increasingly connected, evidence-led, kind and supportive, and determined to turn local successes into landscape-scale recovery.

Special thank yous go to Matt Trevelyan for his truly wonderful Curlew puppets, Cathy and Heathcliff, who smooched to Barry White and laid an egg; Peter Cowdrey for running a musical competition, and to Lee Schofield for a fascinating evening of music and conversation.



Photos: Richard Bunce

Merch Spotlight

The Curlew Action merch shop is jam packed with gifts and clothing to gift to the nature lover in your life, or if you fancy buying yourself a little treat! Here are our favourite items, but head to the [Curlew Action shop](#) to browse the full range.

We are in the process of updating our Curlew merch offerings so keep your eyes peeled for news on that. We are always looking for artists to work with and if you'd be interested in collaborating, please email charlie@curlewaction.org.



Curlew Conversations - Webinars 2026

This year we are running our webinars a little differently. The [Biological Recording Company](#) will be hosting our webinars for us, and topics will be split into two sessions: the first will feature a speaker who will give an overview of the topic, followed by a Q&A, and the second session will involve two speakers with field related experience before the audience will again be able to ask questions. The topics for this year are

- An introduction to Curlew conservation (April & May) - book the first one [here](#).
- Nature-Friendly Farming (June & July)
- Curlews & Grouse Moors (September & October)

Webinars will now be held on Mondays, and will continue to be made available on YouTube afterwards. We will be holding our UK and Europe breeding season round-ups at the end of the year as usual.

[Keep an eye out here](#) for details of the first webinar of 2026, the first one is on April 13!

Curlew Winter Photography Competition

We were overwhelmed with the number of incredible photos that were entered into our Winter Photography Competition. The team had a tough job to pick a winner and runners up as the quality was so high, but we got there!

We are delighted to share that Dennis Capewell was our overall winner with this incredible reflections image. We are sure you will agree it is simply stunning.



Our runner up prizes went to Liam O'Hara (left) and John Ibbotson (right) for their memorable images of Curlews. Stay tuned for future photography competitions (and see page 2 for information about our World Curlew Day art and poetry competitions!). We love the chance to see all of your incredible photography and creativity!



Win a week in Cornwall with Curlew Action

To celebrate World Curlew Day 2026, we have teamed up with the team at Condurro St Clement, to give away a week in this beautiful property in Cornwall.

Entering the competition is simple: any donations of £10 and over made between 13th January and 15th March will automatically be entered - one entry per £10 donated.

Terms and conditions apply.

[Donate now to enter.](#)



Cornwall Holiday Giveaway Terms & Conditions

- Donations of £10 and over made between 13 January 2026 and 15 March 2026 will be automatically entered into the draw.
- Winner will be selected at random on 16 March and contacted by charlie@curlewaction.org.
- Must be available 17 - 24 April 2026. No alternative date available for the trip.
- No cash alternative.
- If winner does not respond within 3 days, another winner will be selected.
- Cottage sleeps a maximum of 6 people.
- 1 dog welcome.
- Cottage is located in St Clement, Cornwall.
- Curlew Action is not responsible for the holiday and any problems with the booking or during the stay must be taken up with the holiday provider.
- Prize value £1300.
- Participants must be 18 or over to have their entry counted, though under 18s may stay at the property as part of the winning group.

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](#).



Opportunities

RSPB Senior Ecologist – PeacePlus Nature, Northern Ireland
Deadline: 4th March

“PeacePlus Nature is an ambitious €20.8 million programme that brings together partners to tackle the decline in priority species and habitats in Northern Ireland, and the border counties of Ireland.



PEACEPLUS is a cross-border funding Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and supported by the European Union, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Ireland, and the Northern Ireland administration.

The partnership includes RSPB NI, BirdWatch Ireland, Butterfly Conservation, Monaghan County Council, River Blackwater Catchment Trust, Truagh Development Association, Lough Neagh Partnership, NI Water and An Taisce.

The programme will work to restore blanket bog, lowland wet grassland, limestone grassland and priority species including Curlew, Corncrake, Hen harrier, Small Blue butterfly and Irish Damsel. This is an incredible opportunity to work in a programme team to increase the populations of some of Ireland’s most iconic wildlife.”

Find out more [here](#).

Monitoring Officer - WWT, Welney Wetlands, Norfolk
Deadline: 6th March



Are you experienced ornithological fieldworker with a passion for breeding waders? WWT Welney are seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic individual with excellent fieldwork skills to join the team.

You will primarily be responsible for the collection of monitoring data for Black-tailed godwits at WWT Welney.

Black-tailed godwits are a red-listed species with fewer than 40 breeding pairs, of which 95% are found within the Fens. WWT have worked in collaboration with RSPB and NE since 2016 to prevent the species from becoming extinct. This has included pioneering the world's first black-tailed godwit headstarting and translocation programme, which has boosted the fenland population. Continued monitoring of the population at WWT Welney directly contributes to the National Single Species Action Plan for the UK breeding population of Black-tailed godwits, ensuring we can continue to 'maintain and improve existing key breeding sites' and 'increase understanding of factors influencing predation pressure and breeding success.'

Find out more [here](#).