Wildlife World

AUTUMN 2025
ISSUE 28

people's trust for endangered species

UK

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Healthy hedgerows

Grazing Briddlesford

Bright Eyes

How PTES is working to ensure that dormice retain the vital protections that keep them safe

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Return of the natives
Returning lost species to Britain isn't always easy and can be controversial, but it's vital for the long-term prosperity of nature.

Stork talk
White storks are thriving in Sussex where they have been reintroduced, but can they be brought back to other parts of England, too?

Plan Bee
Reports on what our young interns are up to, including one who is researching the habitat preferences of lowland bees and wasps.

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Bringing the wild back to life

Wildlife World is published by People's Trust for Endangered Species

Our wildlife is disappearing. Almost two thirds of species in the UK have declined in the past 50 years. There's nothing natural or inevitable about this. It can be stopped. And everyone can play a part. That's why People's Trust for Endangered Species exists.

Find out more
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Persian leopards
Persian leopards are a subspecies of the big cat found from Georgia and Turkey in the west as far east as Afghanistan. Iran, where our partner **Mohammad Farhadinia** is working, is a stronghold for the Persian leopard, particularly areas such as Tandoureh National Park, but occasional conflict with livestock herders can result in persecution. Mohammad works with local communities to reduce these tensions as well as funding and training wildlife rangers and running education programmes in local schools.

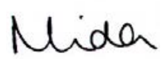
Welcome

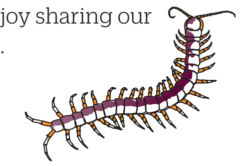
Welcome to our Autumn 2025 edition of *Wildlife World*. Our centre-spread focuses on hazel dormice, a species PTES has championed for many years. Despite years of dedicated efforts, hazel dormice are still declining. They have a complicated ecology which makes them more vulnerable than most small rodents. Dormice breed slowly, producing just one or two litters each year. This spring and summer the early results from our nationwide monitoring programme suggest that it's been a good breeding year, perhaps because of the warm spring and summer, with plentiful berries and forage. Now we're keeping a close eye on the weather, knowing that temperature fluctuations and rainfall can affect dormice as they hibernate, relatively exposed, on forest floors. **Ian White**, our Dormouse Officer, describes these and other challenges our population is facing, and the widespread efforts PTES and our many volunteers are making to look after these endearing creatures.

From fluffy to fascinating, our editor, **James Fair**, has been speaking with two of our recent interns, learning more about how they're creating new habitat to support rare bees and wasps in the Black Country, and focusing on the needs of eels in the Thames river basin. Further south, another intern has been searching for suitable wet grasslands, sufficient to support stork populations. East is best, it turns out.

We have many more features about how the critical actions and generous support of our donors, volunteers and staff are helping many more species, here at home and around the world.

We hope you enjoy reading our magazine as much as we enjoy sharing our stories with you. Thank you.





Nida Al-Fulaij is the Chief Executive of People's Trust for Endangered Species.

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PTES PEOPLE

Contributing to a vital hedgehog conservation project by watching trailcam footage is one way for this issue's volunteer to make use of evenings and wet days.

Lynda Small has been recognised for her achievement in identifying wildlife in more than 125,000 sequences taken by camera traps as part of the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme (NHMP), which PTES runs alongside the **British Hedgehog Preservation Society** and a number of British universities.

The goal of the project is to produce accurate population estimates for hedgehogs from data collected by trail cameras in a number of selected locations around the country.

Along with many other volunteers, Lynda's role is to watch the footage and tag which species she sees.

'Trail cameras are triggered by many things such as grass waving in the wind and passing livestock, so everything has to be sorted and all the species identified,' Lynda explains. 'I find it addictive and great to do in the evenings or on wet days when you can't get outside to carry out fieldwork.'

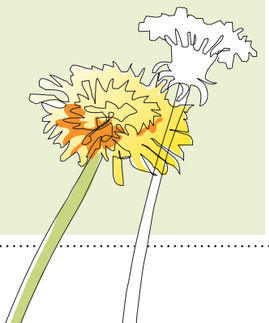
Lynda's fieldwork involves putting out and collecting the cameras in her part of the world – Cornwall. This began in 2024, and she was immediately keen to find out what they had recorded.

'I was told the pictures were going up on the NHMP website and needed going through,' Lynda says. 'There is plenty of guidance available on the website, and it doesn't take long to get the hang of it.'

As a result of her dedication, Lynda has been nominated for an award run by the **National Biodiversity Network** that recognises voluntary work in the field of wildlife conservation.

And despite all the hours she has put in, there are still many sequences that have yet to be checked, Lynda points out. 'It's great fun', she adds. 'I have watched wonderful sequences of fox cubs playing, muntjac deer, badgers, as well as hedgehogs interacting with foxes.'

> "I have watched wonderful sequences of fox cubs playing and hedgehogs interacting with foxes"



Reintroductions complete Britain's wildlife jigsaw

Giving lost species a helping hand is a vital aspect of conservation policy on an island where natural recolonisation is unlikely to happen

The list of species that have either been reintroduced to Great Britain because they went extinct here, or where populations have been translocated because they were absent from a particular area and would be unlikely to recolonise it, is extremely long.

Some extinctions – all our large carnivores, for example – date back hundreds and even thousands of years, but declines accelerated in the past 100 years, especially when farming intensified in the years following the end of World War II.

But these reintroductions are something we can be proud of because we've become very good at them. Most prove successful, not just in terms of establishing new wildlife populations but also because they've been accepted and welcomed by local communities.

Notable reintroductions in the past half a century or so include white-tailed eagles and – very recently – white storks (see Species Focus, p8-9) among our birds and beavers among our mammals. There've even been insect reintroductions – the large blue butterfly in Gloucestershire and Somerset and the short-haired bumblebee in Kent.

Some of the beaver projects (on the west coast of Scotland, for example) have been official reintroductions, and some (on the River Otter in South Devon) have been the result of accidental, or probably deliberate, releases which have received criticism from some quarters.

But whether you approve of 'guerrilla rewilders' or not, bringing beavers back to this country has been highly significant. They are 'ecosystem engineers' that radically change the environment in which they live in a way that benefits other wildlife, including wetland birds, dragonflies, frogs and water voles.

Species that have been moved to areas they were previously eliminated from include birds such as ospreys and choughs, and pine martens, red squirrels and water voles among our mammals.

PTES has been involved in many of these projects, releasing more than 1,100 dormice into 26 sites in the past 30 years. As our **Dormouse Officer Ian White** explains in our main feature (p12-15), because of their ecology, dormice are slow to colonise new areas, and if we don't give them a helping hand, they're unlikely to return.

We've also helped to fund a large-scale, ongoing red squirrel conservation translocation programme in the Scottish Highlands. This was made necessary by habitat loss and deliberate squirrel persecution in the first half of the 20th century, but woodland restoration work means there are now more areas of the Highlands where our native squirrel can thrive again. We've also contributed £100,000 to the wildcat reintroduction in the Cairngorms.

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> "Looking to the future, there is much talk of whether we should consider bringing back long lost carnivores such as lynx and wolves"

While none of these are ecosystem engineers like beavers, they are all charismatic and act as flagship species, building awareness among the public of not only their requirements, but of broader ecosystems. If they're doing ok, then the habitats they live in are probably healthy, too.

Looking to the future, there is much talk of whether we should consider bringing back long lost carnivores such as lynx and wolves.

Campaigners argue that they would benefit woodlands by reducing deer numbers. Studies in Yellowstone National Park in the US, where wolves were reintroduced in the 1990s, show that woodland areas have expanded because browsing pressure has been lessened.

It's debatable whether lynx would have this impact (they're ambush hunters and don't create the 'corridor of fear' that wolves do), and many ardent wildlife experts accept that Great Britain is too small and densely populated to accommodate wolves.

There's also the question of how the UK has changed, and whether there still is enough habitat, since a species disappeared. But ultimately we should not forget that, from water voles to wolves, they are all pieces in the jigsaw that is our island's wildlife.

James Fair is a journalist specialising in wildlife conservation stories and editor of *Wildlife World* magazine.

In Conservation News, we look back on the rich life of PTES surveyor Jim Baldwin and how Steve Oram, our Orchard Officer, helped villagers in Devon stop a destructive quarry development.

Celebrating the life of Briddlesford's Jim Baldwin

Laura Bower, Working Landscapes Manager, reflects on Jim's passion for Briddlesford and his generous spirit.

Jim Baldwin was a skilled naturalist who dedicated countless hours to surveying butterflies, birds, moths and dragonflies at Briddlesford Nature Reserve, on the Isle of Wight. He loved to enthuse people about the wildlife he was so passionate about, patiently sharing his knowledge of how to identify different species. He generously gave me valuable tips on how to spot white-tailed eagles at Brading Marshes, and I was fortunate enough to see them as a result. Jim truly loved Briddlesford and was always eager to spend as much time as he could there, even when he was unwell, drawing strength and joy from the reserve's wildlife. His kindness, enthusiasm and dedication touched many, and his absence will be deeply felt. He sadly passed away in May and will be very much missed by his friends, family and the conservation community of the island.

Quarry plans quashed

PTES helps local community put an end to quarry plans because of fears for hedgerows and ancient trees.

© Monica and Mark Mortimer

© Monica and Mark Mortimer

Plans to develop a quarry on a farm in East Devon that would have resulted in the loss of 1km of ancient hedgerow and veteran oak trees have been abandoned. PTES' Orchard Officer Steve Oram advised a local campaign group and objected to the proposal.

According to Straitgate Action Group, the story goes back more than half a century, to 1965, when Straitgate Farm, close to the market town of Ottery St Mary, was bought with the aim of quarrying some 20 million tonnes of sand and gravel. The group was formed in 2001, with impacts to local water supplies, the ancient woodlands and protected species including bats and dormice and increased heavy goods traffic top of its list of concerns.

Steve says developing the quarry would have altered the hydrology of a semi-natural ancient woodland just outside the proposed site, resulting in profound and irreversible changes. There would have been a similar impact on a traditional orchard which could have killed trees and altered the ground flora.

Plans were first lodged to quarry the site in 1967, and there have been four public enquiries to determine Straitgate's future since then. PTES is pleased to have played its part in saving its rare wildlife and ancient trees.

PTES produces the first national assessment of stag beetles

The state of Britain's stag beetle population has been assessed for the first time in a study published in the journal Insect Conservation and Diversity.

© Duncan Wright

PTES launched the first *Great Stag Hunt*, a citizen science project collecting records of stag beetles, in 1998 and since 2015, it has been run every year.

Written in collaboration with the Natural History Museum in London, the study used records submitted by volunteers to the *Great Stag Hunt*, and specimens from museum collections, to investigate how the population had changed over time.

It found that the distribution of over 82,000 verified records had changed little since the survey began and was very similar to that of historical records going back a century. However, records had become sparser over recent years in the west of the species' range in southern England. Counts of adult beetles have also declined, but because the survey isn't primarily designed to measure abundance, this result should be treated cautiously.

Overall, the picture is positive and demonstrates the huge contribution of volunteers to conservation.

Kittens of the Cairngorms

Efforts to restore native wildcat to Scottish national park given timely boost.

© Saving Wildcats

For the second year in a row, wildcats released as part of a long-term project to re-establish the species in Scotland's Cairngorms National Park have given birth to kittens in the wild.

This is tremendous news for everyone at the *Saving Wildcats* project which PTES helps to fund – as it is for the wildcats, too, of course.

As *Wildlife World* was being put together, staff at *Saving Wildcats* were still trying to establish how many kittens were born in 2025 – they are piecing together information from camera-trap footage, data recovered from female cats fitted with GPS collars and sightings passed on by members of the public.

A breeding and release programme for wildcats – the only native wild felid left in the UK (lynx are native but extinct here) – became necessary after the species was left on the brink of extinction as a result of habitat loss and interbreeding with feral domestic cats.

In the area of the Cairngorms where *Saving Wildcats* – led by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland – has been working, a lot of effort has gone into reducing the risk of hybridisation by neutering as many feral cats as possible.

PTES helps with Ratty's return to the River Wey

Water Vole Officer Emily Luck trained National Trust staff and volunteers in spotting essential field signs to help success of the project.

© Emily Luck

For the first time in decades, water voles have been reintroduced to the River Wey near Haslemere, on the borders of Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire. In August, 150 voles were released at six carefully chosen sites as part of a two-year programme led by the National Trust and partners. The aim is to rebuild a population stretching from the South Downs National Park up to the Thames.

Water voles are threatened by habitat loss and predation by invasive American mink. Their return is both a conservation success and a chance for local communities to reconnect with a much-missed part of their natural heritage.

PTES Water Vole Officer, Emily Luck, supported the project earlier this year by training National Trust staff and volunteers to recognise field signs such as footprints, feeding remains and burrows, and to carry out standardised surveys. She was also invited to witness the release itself, which she describes as 'a huge privilege'.

Looking ahead, the team will monitor the new population using our National Water Vole Monitoring Programme method, helping to ensure this much-loved species thrives once more in the Wey catchment.

West Bengal's elephant boom brings risks

Our partner has been engaging with local communities to help them reduce the potential for conflict.

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Asian elephant numbers in the Mayurjharna Elephant Reserve in West Bengal have more than doubled to over 250 in the past decade or so, and while this is essentially good news, it has also brought some problems.

Most notably, it has increased the potential for conflict between elephants and the people who live in a landscape that includes forests, crop fields and areas of human settlements. In addition, there is an ongoing issue of elephants straying onto railway tracks and being hit by trains.

Our partner, the Asian Elephant Conservation Foundation, has been working to try and tackle these issues over the last couple of years. Working with local communities, the project head Samya Basu says they have been successful in minimising retaliatory action from villagers.

Samya and his team introduced new ideas to communities such as modern elephant deterrents (to replace traditional practices such as crackers and torches) and the concept of underground granaries from which food cannot be accessed by elephants that come into villages.

They're also been advising the rail authorities on how best to minimise the deaths of elephants on the railways. This is ongoing work, and the deaths of three elephants – including two calves – in July 2025 after they were hit by a train demonstrates there is still a lot of progress to be made on this issue.

Stork of the town

If you've ever travelled in Eastern Europe, the Balkans or Spain in the spring or summer, then you may have seen one of the iconic sights of these areas – white storks breeding on rooftops in their enormous nests that can weigh up to a tonne. White storks are native to the UK, but disappeared in the Middle Ages as a result of hunting and habitat loss. The Sussex rewilding site Knepp has reintroduced the species there, and now other conservationists are considering doing the same in other areas. Our intern Ursula Heinze has assessed which other parts of England would be suitable for these remarkable birds.

Best of Britain

Eastern England offers the best opportunities for stork reintroductions, though the Somerset Levels would also provide excellent habitat, our intern concluded.

White storks are a bird of wet grasslands and they feed opportunistically on earthworms and insects, though they'll also take small mammals up to the size of a young rabbit. Mostly they use their long straight bills to take earthworms (particularly in the winter when it's wet) from the ground or small beetles from grass stems. They will also consume grasshoppers, craneflies, moths and butterflies. Unlike most birds, they have a strong sense of smell, and according to the White Stork Project, they can detect cut grass from 25km away and associate it with being able to predate small mammals and frogs.

Model habitat

Originally, Ursula's plan was to look at a specific area of Devon around the River Dart from Totnes to the sea where a white stork reintroduction is being considered, but it quickly became clear that a broader examination of habitat suitability within England was necessary to offer some context. She used data from northern France to model which parts of England offered the best environment for them.

East is best

The result of her work is a map of southern England showing the best habitats for white storks. 'A clear gradient from east to west is evident,' writes Ursula in her final report, 'with habitat suitability generally higher in the east, except for the Somerset Levels, which also exhibit high suitability. In south Devon (the area she was initially tasked with assessing), areas above average suitability are scattered and relatively small.'

Get it wetter

For the moment, the only white stork reintroduction that has taken place is at Knepp. But storks are highly mobile birds, and Ursula's report recommends that, should landowners and wider society wish to attract them to the area of the Dart Estuary, then habitat improvement work (removing drainage pipes and restoring natural water flow – anything to create wetter conditions that support larger invertebrate populations) will need to be carried out. But because it's not typical white stork habitat, an active reintroduction is not recommended. ●

PTES NEWS

Scrapbook

We love hearing from PTES people, whether supporters or project leaders. Pictures, reports, emails, web posts and letters give a great sense of your passion for wildlife, so please keep them coming!

Giving hedgehogs the edge

This spring, *Hedgehog Street* marked Hedgehog Awareness Week with a fun Arts and Crafts Competition. Supporters of all ages got creative, showing how to 'give hedgehogs the edge' by making gardens hedgehog friendly. We loved the imagination and effort in every entry.

Congratulations to our winners: Wilf, Baxter and Charlie (above right) with their 'Woodstone Lane Gang Bug and Hedgehog Hotel'; Emily (age 7, below left) with 'Hedgehog Wonderland'; Lottie (age 7, right) with 'Give Hedgehogs the Edge'; and Felicity Drew with 'Through the Undergrowth' (top). A huge thank you to everyone who joined in – your brilliant creations show just how much fun helping hedgehogs can be! ●

Hedgerow Hero Megan wins award

We're delighted **Megan Gimber**, our **Key Habitats Officer**, was one of the 2025 awardees at the Linnean Society. Megan won the John Spedan Lewis Emerging Leader Award (for initiatives that have had a notable positive impact for the UK natural environment) for her work managing the trust's hedgerow projects. A key achievement has been developing the Healthy Hedgerows app for farmers (more on p20).

Inspiring interns

In March we celebrated 25 years of our Conservation Internship Awards with an event at the Royal Geographic Society in London for current, recent and past interns and their supervisors, as well as supporters of the programme and colleagues. We heard inspiring talks from four interns on how their PTES internships helped them on their career path and Professor Bill Sutherland delivered the keynote speech. Our thanks to Elgol Fund for Nature which very kindly sponsored the event.

Dear PTES,

What a day! Ten Asian giant tortoises were released back into the forest, welcomed with songs, blessings, and a wonderful community feast. The villagers promised to protect them as neighbours, even calling them 'fellow villagers'. Two local youths are now proud 'Tortoise Guardians', trained to watch over the tortoises. It was a day full of hope, joy, and culture. The forest feels alive with giants once more.

Best regards

Sushmita and the team

Sushmita and some of her team prepare to release one of the radio-tagged Asian giant tortoises

These gentle 'forest giants' act like gardeners, spreading seeds and keeping the forest healthy

My role at PTES

Charlie Hooper
Digital Marketing Officer

As the Digital Marketing Officer at PTES, I have the wonderful job of helping to spread the word about our important work. I've always had a deep interest in the environment, which is why I pursued a degree in Geography. While at university, I founded a student society for wildlife conservation, which sparked my desire to work in the sector.

A big part of my role is running our campaigns across Facebook, Instagram and Google, making sure our messages reach as many nature-loving people as possible who want to make a difference for wildlife and their habitats.

I also put together a lot of the emails that land in your inbox. I particularly enjoy choosing the images – because who wouldn't like looking through photos of adorable snoozing dormice or amazingly unique pangolins!

On the creative side, I design graphics for our social media, create reels for Instagram, and support the team with other visual content. Right now, I'm especially excited to be working on a brand-new line of merchandise – so keep an eye out for some fresh designs coming your way soon!

No two days are the same, and I love how varied and rewarding my role is. Whether I'm analysing campaign results, helping with events or brainstorming new content ideas, it's all about finding ways to expand our reach and celebrate the amazing impact made possible by our supporters.

There's plenty of room for creativity and experimentation, so every project feels fresh and exciting. Above all, what drives me is knowing that everything we do helps protect the most vulnerable species and their habitats, both here in the UK and worldwide. ●

Setting up a camera for our National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme

Monitoring mammals at Briddlesford

This summer, 30 cameras were set up in Briddlesford Nature Reserve as part of the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme, a pilot survey testing new ways to monitor hedgehogs and other mammals. After a month, the cameras were collected and the images are now live at **mammalweb.org/nhmp**. You can help by identifying the species you see online — contributing to conservation from the comfort of your sofa! No hedgehogs have been seen at Briddlesford yet, but plenty of other exciting wildlife has been caught on camera.

Help spot wildlife at Briddlesford and around the UK
mammalweb.org/nhmp

Working together for wildlife

PTES was delighted to take part in the first ever Wild Summit in Bristol in September. Hosted by **Wildlife and Countryside Link**, it brought together hundreds of environmental and wildlife organizations to discuss sector challenges and practical solutions. Topics included supporting nature-friendly farming, cleaning up our waterways and prioritising and funding nature restoration projects. Our partner, the **British Hedgehog Preservation Society**, joined us to showcase our work tackling hedgehog declines, and we were thrilled to meet several of our dedicated volunteers during an inspiring day of talks and networking. ●

Prof. Anna Nekaris OBE (centre) welcomed PTES to Anglia Ruskin University's Friends and Supporters Dinner, celebrating 20 years of collaboration on endangered primates

OUR WORK WITH HAZEL DORMICE

Among British mammals, hazel dormice have a unique lifestyle, and that's one reason they are rare. Will changes to the way they are protected help or hinder them?

A life less ordinary

On the face of it, it's not clear what makes dormice so special. Why does PTES concentrate a proportion of its resources solely on them? None of Britain's other small rodents (apart from water voles) are treated in the same way. Why do we single dormice out for special consideration?

If anyone is qualified to answer that question, then it's **Ian White**, who has been our Dormouse Officer for nearly 20 years. And part of the answer is that hazel dormice (along with many of the 28 different dormice species which are found across Europe, Asia and Africa), have a completely different ecology to most other rodents.

Take a wood mouse, says Ian. A female that's just had a litter can be pregnant with her next one in just a matter of weeks or even days. It's thought a single female wood mouse can give birth to nearly 50 young in a season, which means that populations can grow very quickly when conditions are suitable.

'Wood mice will also eat pretty much anything, and as long as there's enough food and nesting sites, they can churn out lots and lots of young,' Ian says.

Our hazel dormice have a different life strategy. For a start, explains Ian, they lack a caecum (a pouch at the beginning of the large intestine) and cannot digest cellulose, which means they can't eat grass or leaves like other rodents. Instead, they specialise in eating flowers in the spring, invertebrates in the summer and nuts and berries in the autumn.

And because, unlike squirrels, they don't cache any food, it means they have had to adopt an approach they share only (in the UK) with hedgehogs and bats, and that's hibernation. They compensate for the lack of food during the winter and early spring by going to sleep. (Brown bears hibernate, too, and are native to Britain, but are of course now extinct here.)

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OUR WORK WITH HAZEL DORMICE

© Robb Doyle, Zoë Helene Kindermann

ABOVE: Dormice are super sleepers – they can hibernate for up to seven months of the year, from when the first frosts appear in October to as late as May if it's been a cold spring. They need to reach a weight of 18g before going to sleep for winter, at which point they build a small nest on the ground where temperatures are likely to be more stable.

LEFT: At our recent reintroduction in Bradgate Park just outside Leicester, volunteers put up nest boxes for the newly released dormice.

ABOVE: Dormouse Officer Ian White with one of the dormice that was released into Bradgate Park. The dormice quickly adapted to their new home and, in August, the Bradgate Park Trust revealed they'd discovered 11 baby dormice in the cages the animals were housed in as part of the soft-release process.

LEFT: The release was a joint project between PTES and the Bradgate Park Trust. The park is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve and is protected for its fossils and rocks that date back half a billion years.

Also unlike mice and other rodents, dormice have very few young in a year. The chances are, they'll only have one litter, occasionally two, with an average of four young per litter. But to compensate, there's a high level of maternal care, with the offspring staying with their mother for up to eight weeks, and this gives them a much higher chance of survival.

As long as they fatten up sufficiently on the glut of blackberries, other fruits and hazelnuts in the late summer and autumn and reach a minimum weight of 18g, then they've got a good chance of surviving the winter and breeding the following year.

But all this means that not only are dormice more reliant on living in habitat that provides their more specific dietary requirements, they're also more vulnerable if their populations fall for any reason.

For example, Ian explains that an ideal woodland habitat of five hectares can support 20-30 dormice. If you lose 70-80 per cent of that woodland as a result of tree-felling or inappropriate management, that would reduce the population to, at best, about 20 individuals and, at worst, fewer than 10. 'This may be insufficient to sustain the population, and our fragmented landscape means no other dormice are likely to disperse into the woodland either,' says Ian.

This is one of the reasons why PTES has carried out 37 dormice releases involving more than 1,100 animals to 26 separate sites in 13 counties since 1993. If we didn't do it, they wouldn't be able to find or move to new areas by themselves.

Their unusual (for a rodent, at least) ecology also has a direct bearing on why they're a protected species under the Habitats Directive, making it an offence to deliberately kill or disturb a dormouse or to damage or destroy its breeding or nesting sites. It means that any company wishing to build on a site that could conceivably be habitat for dormice must carry out extensive surveys and do its best not to damage either the habitat or harm the animals themselves. If damage is unavoidable, then it must create compensatory habitat elsewhere.

But, with the Labour Government putting so much emphasis on creating economic growth, the protection afforded to dormice and other mammals such as bats is coming under threat. Ministers believe that the costs incurred by the private sector are disproportionately high, and they want to find a system that still maintains their populations, but – worringly – reduces some of the red tape.

They've already done this for great crested newts. They too are covered by the Habitats Directive, but under a policy called District Licensing, developers have a freer hand if this largest of our native newts is found on land they want to build on. In essence, as long as they create suitable habitat elsewhere, they can avoid much of the surveying work they previously had to carry out, cutting the time it takes to get permission for the development and the money it costs them as well.

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Fact File

NAME
Hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*

APPEARANCE
Golden brown fur, big black eyes, a long, furry tail.

SIZE
Body length of 6-9cm, maximum weight of 40g.

HABITAT
Coppice woodland, but also scrub, hedgerows and occasionally conifer woodlands. They do best in woodlands with new growth and good scrub.

DIET
Tree blossom in the spring, insects in the summer and berries and nuts in the autumn.

BREEDING
Litters of 4-5 young, which are born pink, hairless and blind, are usual. After 12 days, they gain a coat of pale grey fur, and they will stay with their mother for 6-8 weeks.

HIBERNATION
Create a tightly woven nest about the size of a tennis ball at ground level. They can hibernate for up to seven months of the year.

IUCN RED LIST STATUS
Least Concern.

Now the Government wants to create a similar system for dormice, but they have a completely different ecology to great crested newts and their habitat takes much longer to create. PTES and other conservation groups have huge concerns about this new approach, so we are working with an ecological consultancy called NatureSpace to see if it is feasible.

The first stage of the work involves establishing 'risk maps' that would enable the presence, or absence, of dormice to be predicted with a high degree of accuracy.

Much of what we know about where dormice live comes from the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (run by PTES) and information from ecologists with dormice licences, but this data tends to be biased towards coppiced and mature woodland where there are nest boxes which are regularly checked. Licence return data is often collected by surveyors alongside roads and railway lines as well.

But we are increasingly understanding that dormice are found in other areas, so PTES and NatureSpace are investigating whether dormice are using other areas of habitat, using tried and tested methods including footprint tunnels, which we hope will allow us to create more maps predicting accurately where they are likely to be.

The next stage will involve seeing whether it's possible to then develop maps that tell us where development should be avoided or where creating compensatory habitat will be beneficial.

'I think one of the creeping problems for dormice is the progression of piecemeal development,' says Ian. Where villages expand slowly outwards, for example, they can impact habitat such as hedgerows that provide vital corridors that allow dormice to travel between two areas.

'Slowly, slowly, you lose all your habitat,' Ian points out. 'But if you have a reliable and robust risk zone map, you can monitor that connectivity and assess whether it is being maintained or not.'

But Ian is unsure whether this new, more strategic approach to protecting dormice will benefit them or not. The problem, he says, is that it's unclear what the impact of the current system has been because the outcomes have not been properly monitored. As a result, there's no real way of knowing how the new approach will play out. There's no certainty that it won't reduce the overall habitat available for dormice.

So while there's also no certainty that this approach will be less detrimental than current regulations, rest assured that Ian White and the rest of the team at PTES will carry on protecting dormice for the future, releasing them into new areas and researching how best to ensure they both survive and thrive.

PTES IN ACTION

Gorilla guardians

Protecting great apes in Cameroon's Campo Ma'an National Park can be best achieved by providing work and training for local people.

A project undertaken by our partner, the **African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)**, in Cameroon has successfully trialled a new approach to gorilla conservation by working with local indigenous peoples.

Western gorillas are found in West Africa from the Republic of the Congo in the south as far north as the Cameroon-Nigeria border, but throughout much of their range, they are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, forestry operations and other human activities, as well as being hunted for their bushmeat.

In Cameroon's Campo Ma'an National Park, the AWF – working with rangers from the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife – has trained 10 Bagyeli people to act as 'gorilla guardians' and to carry out monitoring and conservation work, including smartphone-based data collection.

'Joint patrols and monitoring missions, conducted by the gorilla guardians and park rangers, provided valuable data on great ape nesting sites and human activities within the park,' says the AWF. And though this contributed to the conservation of both gorillas and chimpanzees, AWF staff also say the project has highlighted 'the ongoing challenges faced in protecting these vulnerable species'.

During the initiative, a total of 24 monitoring missions were carried out over 168 days, and this resulted in the identification of 179 individual gorilla nests at 46 separate locations, and 829 chimpanzee nests at 207 locations.

As well as monitoring and data collections skills, the gorilla guardians were also trained in forest hygiene – both how to reduce their own exposure to dangerous pathogens such as viruses, as well as protecting great apes from human-borne diseases.

Campo Ma'an National Park covers 2,500km^2 of southern Cameroon up to the border with Equatorial Guinea. It's home to 80 species of mammals, more than 300 birds, nearly 250 fish and 122 reptiles, and is considered internationally important for its gorillas, chimpanzees and forest elephants.

Fact File

NAME
Western lowland gorilla
Gorilla gorilla gorilla

LOCATION
Found over 700,000km^2 (an area double the size of Germany) of West Africa, with notable populations in Gabon, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

HABITAT
Lowland rainforest.

DIET
Mainly herbivorous, eating fruits, roots, herbs and shoots, supplemented with occasional insects and other invertebrates.

BEHAVIOUR
Like all gorillas, they're social animals, living in troops of up 30 individuals. There's always a dominant ('silverback') male, and several females and their offspring. They're active during the day and sleep at night in nests on the ground or in trees.

POPULATION
Not known. The IUCN puts numbers at around 300,000.

IUCN RED LIST STATUS
Critically Endangered, because it's estimated their numbers are declining at a rate of 2.7 per cent or more every year.

Graduate steps

PTES is proud of its extensive internship programme, in which early career conservationists are given the opportunity to carry out a project that will also advance wildlife conservation in Britain. Here we look at what two of our latest recruits have been up to.

Earth matters

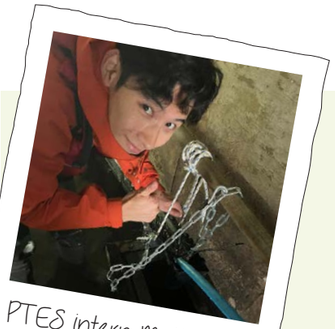
Patches of bare earth don't sound like the most promising subject for an aspiring conservationist, but that's exactly what **Bailey Carswell-Morris** has been studying, supervised by our previous intern **Aaron Bhambra** at the **University of Birmingham**.

In the Black Country in the West Midlands, about 200 hectares of what was once mainly lowland heath still remain, and these relict tracts of what is a rare habitat are home to a wide range of invertebrates, including some of the UK's rarest bees and wasps.

In 2023, a project called Purple Horizons was started with the intention of improving the heathland areas for insects, and as part of that, bare scrapes were created that it's hoped will provide good nesting sites for species such as cats ear mining, nomad and tormentil mining bees.

Bailey spent three months surveying these scrapes and recording which species used them. The evidence he has collected will be provided to land managers, councils and conservation groups to help them further hone their biodiversity strategies.

The UK is home to about 25 per cent of all the world's lowland heath, so this work is internationally as well as nationally significant.



Eel of approval

European eels have declined catastrophically in UK waters (and indeed all of Europe) in the past half century, with an overall drop in numbers of 95 per cent in 40 years.

Our intern, **Matt Chen**, was part of a team at the **Zoological Society of London** putting together the Eel Action Plan for the Thames River Basin District, which is identifying and implementing key conservation actions to protect and enhance the eel population.

Matt helped to organise a workshop at which stakeholders for eel management, such as the Environment Agency, London Wildlife Trust and the Sustainable Eel Group, were asked to give their views on the most important actions required. Following the workshop, Matt created visual flow charts of the priority areas and actions identified for the recovery of eel populations in the Thames River Basin. He and his team were then able to integrate them into the new action plan.

According to Matt, minimising eel mortality and reducing barriers to their movement up freshwater river systems are key to restoring the fortunes of this mysterious fish.

PTES IN ACTION

The scale of the problem

Our partner in Ghana is working on a project to survey forest habitats in one of West Africa's wildlife hotspots for three species of pangolin.

Pangolins are probably best known as the world's most trafficked mammal. This is because of the high demand for their scales and claws which are used in traditional medicines. They're taken for their meat, too.

But the illegal wildlife trade is not the only reason that all eight species – four are found in Africa, four in Asia – are at risk of extinction.

In Ghana, ongoing habitat loss from deforestation is affecting three species – the white-bellied, giant and black-bellied pangolins – that inhabit the Guinean Forest Biodiversity Hotspot, a large biome that covers 11 countries in Central and West Africa.

But pangolins are cryptic, shy mammals that are difficult to see and hard to survey using traditional scientific methods.

We are funding our Ghanaian partner, **Veronica Dandzo-Adzagudu** of the **Threatened Species Conservation Alliance**, to use traditional ecological knowledge, combined with existing data and conventional techniques such as camera trapping and transect surveys, to predict what the important areas are for all three species.

To tap into the traditional knowledge, Veronica has been interviewing local people in selected areas and using pictures of all three species to find out where they have been seen.

'Identified hotspots (for pangolins) can be targeted for anti-poaching patrols, reintroduction sites or community conservation areas, while transects and camera traps can be adapted for long-term monitoring to assess implemented actions' effectiveness,' says the alliance. ●

© Frank Kohn | USFWS

What is a pangolin?

- Most species of pangolin are roughly the size of a cat. They have long snouts and tails and are entirely covered in scales made from keratin.
- Ants and termites make up much of their diet, though they will also eat other invertebrates including flies, crickets, worms and larvae.
- The eight species vary in size – the giant ground pangolin can reach a length of 1.8 metres and weigh up to 33kg.
- Though they resemble armadillos, pangolins are actually more closely related to carnivores such as cats and dogs.

Save our sharks

Protecting areas where young hammerhead sharks and other marine wildlife take refuge could result from work we have funded in Guatemala.

The south-east Pacific coast of Guatemala in Central America has been identified as an important nursery area for scalloped hammerhead sharks thanks to the work of our partner in the region.

PTES provided funds to support the **Blue World Foundation's** work catching and tagging 178 hammerhead sharks near the port of Las Lisas in southern Guatemala while training local fishermen in tagging techniques at the same time.

'Our data revealed that over 95 per cent of the captured sharks were very young, highlighting the importance of Las Lisas as a nursery area,' the foundation said.

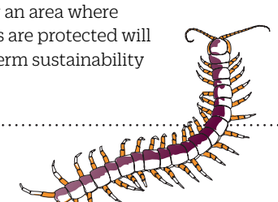
Ten of the tagged sharks were subsequently recaught within the same area, and this has helped the scientists define the limits of the nursery area.

The findings of the study have been presented to the Guatemalan Fishing Authority to support grounds for the establishment of a Fish Replenishment Zone, an area where fishing is banned or limited. They have also been shared with other marine scientists in a seminar held at the University of San Carlos.

The Blue World Foundation has known for some years that fishermen operating out of Las Lisas target scalloped hammerhead sharks, as well as taking them as bycatch. Establishing an area where sharks and other species are protected will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the fishery. ●

© Jaime Culebras

- Scalloped hammerhead sharks are a species that live in warm temperate and tropical waters in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- They get their name from the scalloping on the front of their hammer-shaped heads (called the cephalofoil).
- The sharks' iconic heads are thought to give them better binocular vision and provide a larger area over which their electroreceptors, which they rely on for hunting, can operate.



The wild bunch

Our Kenyan partner is studying how African wild dogs' interactions with local herders and their dogs are affecting their survival.

In northern Kenya's Ewaso ecosystem, African wild dogs – classed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List – survive in a landscape they share with people and domestic dogs..

But their numbers have fluctuated wildly in the past. In 2017, canine distemper virus (CDV) hit the 20 packs (equivalent to some 300 animals) known to reside in the area, leaving just two individuals.

Since then, the population has grown again, but the threat of potential deadly viral infections harboured by domestic dogs still remains.

Our partner in Kenya, **Dedan Ngatia** of the **Mpala Research Centre**, has been investigating the relationship between wild and domestic dogs and what – if anything – can be done to reduce any negative impacts on the former.

Dedan has come to understand that mortality of wild dogs increases when temperatures go up, and analysis of GPS data shows that both the wild and domestic dogs show a stronger preference for areas near water at these times.

As a result, they're more likely to come into contact, increasing the chances of disease transmission.

Killing of wild dogs by herders also increases at this time, again because their livestock and wildlife both need increased access to water.

'Climate change leading to warmer, drier conditions will only exacerbate these trends,' Dedan says, so potential solutions are required. One action that is having a positive impact is his team's ongoing rabies vaccination programme for domestic dogs, which is reducing the risk of transmission to both their wild cousins and local people. ●

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Tracking turtles

Saving a terrapin that's virtually extinct in the wild is a tall order, but Indian conservationists are making great strides towards it.

One of Asia's rarest reptiles is the focus of our partner's work in the Sunderbans mangrove forests that span India and Bangladesh.

The **Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) Foundation India** has been working to save the northern river terrapin since 2012 after it was deemed 'functionally extinct' in the wild.

In 2008, 12 adults were recovered from a single pond, and since then the TSA has built up an insurance population of some 700 individuals through captive-breeding.

Now, says TSA Foundation India director **Dr Shailendra Singh**, they want to move some of the breeding operations to a new facility and then release 10 sub-adult terrapins – three males and seven females weighing roughly 10kg and all tagged with satellite transmitters – into the wild in 2026.

This species of river turtle – which can weigh up to 18kg – has declined to near extinction because of overexploitation of adults and eggs for food and as a result of habitat loss. One of the problems for conservationists now is that it's so rare in the wild, very little is known about its ecology and it's hard to study. It is known that higher salinity levels within the area may be impacting the species.

A previous trial release of 10 terrapins achieved some success, but half of them disappeared and are believed to have been taken by local villagers.

'Five individuals ended up in Bangladesh, and two transmitters were detached by fishermen,' Shailendra says. 'With the help of forest police, we recovered them and put them back. Three individuals were possibly killed in fishing nets or intentionally captured.'

Shailendra hopes that by releasing younger terrapins this time round, they will not travel as far from the project area as the first set.

"We're also conducting awareness work with fishermen and through school education programmes, and we aim to develop a stronger network of fishermen within the entire Sunderbans who have greater awareness of the conservation needs of this species," says Shailendra. ●

© TSA

Hedgerow app backed by Defra

Managing hedges is vital if they're to maintain the functions that make them valuable, and our app offers government-approved guidance on how to do this.

Our Healthy Hedgerows app has been officially recommended by the Department for Food, Environment & Rural Affairs (Defra) to farmers who applied for funding under the Government's Environmental Land Management Scheme, also known as ELMS.

The app, which helps any landowner assess the condition of their hedge and whether – and what – management intervention is required, has now been used to survey 50,000 hedges, says our **Key Habitats Officer, Megan Gimber.**

Megan says that the Government's funding stream, known as the Sustainable Farming Incentive or SFI (which was brought in to replace the Common Agricultural Policy when the UK left the EU), requires a basic audit of the hedgerow's condition.

'The benefit of doing it on our app is that you have to answer just six questions, and you are immediately and directly given management advice for that hedgerow,' Megan explains. 'It ties the management advice to your visual memory of the hedge, rather than feeding it to you later while you're sitting at a computer.'

Lack of rejuvenation is the major threat to the UK's hedgerows. While farmers have largely stopped removing their hedges (an action that was encouraged and subsidised in the post-war years), the problem now is that landowners tend to just leave them because they lack the skills, time and money to do anything.

But hedges exist because of human actions going back 5,000 years, and they require rejuvenation every 20 to 40 years if they're to fulfil all the functions for which they were originally created, and those for which we additionally value them today.

Hedges were originally created by early inhabitants of Britain as a way to keep livestock in an area (and keep wild animals out), but also as providers of shade, shelter and firewood. Today, they still retain these uses, but we also value them as carbon stores and for the way they benefit wildlife and reduce damage to crops and run-off of rainwater to rivers and streams.

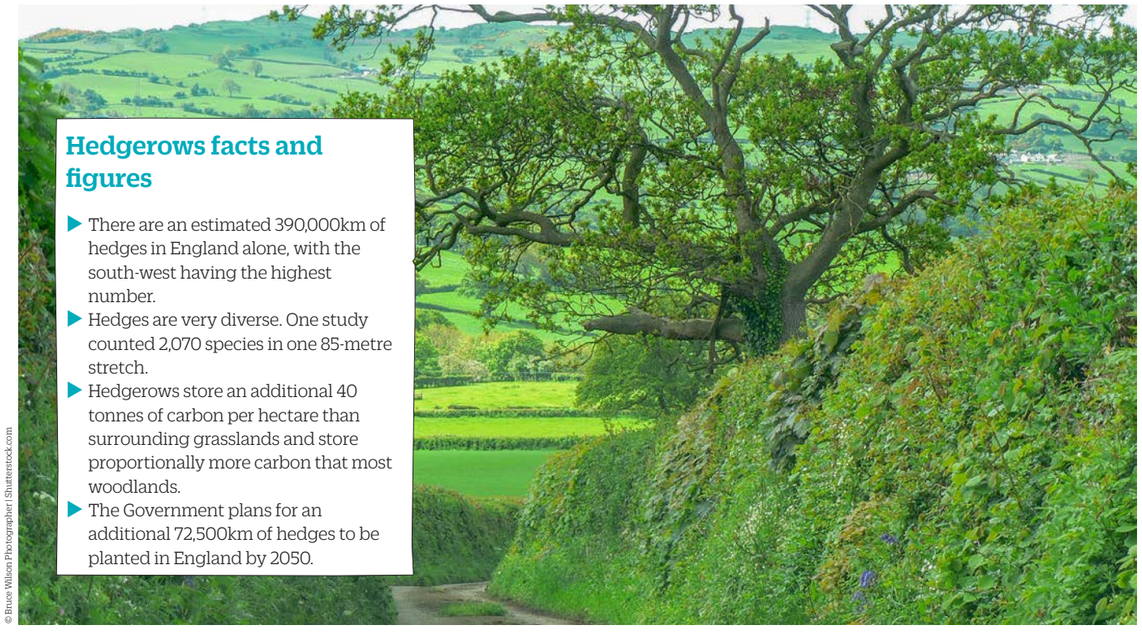
But without lifecycle management, Megan explains, they simply become a line of trees that don't provide these multiple benefits and aren't permanent features in the landscape in the way they should be.

Wildlife such as dormice, nesting birds and hedgehogs seek out hedges because of the nesting sites and feeding opportunities that they provide. Hedgerows can only be maintained by being layed on a periodic basis, but the skills and workforce to carry this out have been largely lost since the end of World War II.

Megan believes that interest in how to manage hedges is returning, however. She speaks all around the country and attended more than 50 events last year. At one festival, she took 200 people on a hedgerow safari; there's clearly passion for this valuable habitat.

'There's a huge appetite among the farming community to change how they manage hedges because they are seeing firsthand what's happened to them,' Megan says. 'There seems to be no end to the demand, which is encouraging.'

Find out more
www.hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org



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Hedgerows facts and figures

- There are an estimated 390,000km of hedges in England alone, with the south-west having the highest number.
- Hedges are very diverse. One study counted 2,070 species in one 85-metre stretch.
- Hedgerows store an additional 40 tonnes of carbon per hectare than surrounding grasslands and store proportionally more carbon that most woodlands.
- The Government plans for an additional 72,500km of hedges to be planted in England by 2050.

Cattle return to shape new habitat

Belted galloways will help manage grasslands to create a greater diversity of plants and insects.

The next step in the regeneration of our nature reserve, Briddlesford, on the Isle of Wight is underway. We're converting 30 hectares of the reserve to wood pasture, and for the past two years, we've left the area ungrazed, allowing natural regeneration of trees and scrub.

In the summer, our grazier brought his 30 belted galloway cattle back to the fields. Grazing will help create a mix of sward lengths and allow a greater diversity of plants to flourish.

We've also planted new trees, including disease-resistant elms, which will eventually attract butterflies such as the rare, red-listed white-letter hairstreak whose caterpillars are reliant on the species for food.

The scrub – mainly hawthorn but also bramble – that has grown up in recent years should offer cover for nesting birds, as well as a food source for invertebrates in the spring and summer and fruit in the autumn.

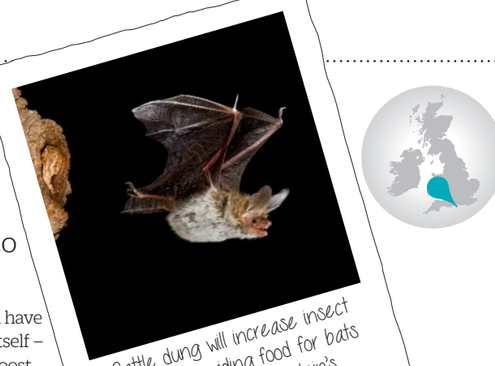
The presence of cattle will have benefits beyond the pasture itself – for example, their dung will boost the presence of insects that will feed rare barbastelles and Bechstein's bats.

While working to create the wood pasture, which will take many decades, we're also continuing to work on important aspects of the woodlands themselves.

One issue that has mystified us for a few years is why the number of dormice using the nest boxes is declining. Is this an indication that dormice are declining within the woods or is there another reason?

'We thought it might be that they're not using the boxes any more because we've improved the habitat and there are more natural nesting sites,' says **Working Landscapes Manager, Laura Bower**.

Footprint tunnels show that dormice are still present across the reserve, but these don't give any indication of numbers. More work is required to unravel the mystery.



Cattle dung will increase insect numbers, providing food for bats like the rare Bechstein's

Belted galloway cattle will help increase plant diversity

© Ajami Photo Agency | Shutterstock.com

Life in dead wood

Dead trees are food for the larvae of many rare insects, and so at our Worcestershire reserve, we're planning for the future by planting new ones.

Getting the habitat right is the key focus of our work at our Rough Hill reserve, a traditional orchard on the banks of the River Avon in Worcestershire.

Planting new fruit trees has been a major part of our work – many of the trees at Rough Hill are old, so it's important to keep the age profile balanced. We've planted more than 100 trees in recent years, including 11 plum trees this year.

Explaining the challenges we face at Rough Hill, **Working Landscapes Manager Laura Bower** says, 'My favourite bramley tree finally succumbed in the past year or so. There was a storm and it blew over. It used to produce a really good crop of apples, so it's sad it's gone.'

The tree won't be removed but will be left in situ to decompose, thereby providing excellent habitat for saproxylic beetles – beetles whose larvae rely on dead or dying wood.

'It's a very good site for these types of beetles, because of the very old trees and the dead wood they contain,' says Laura. Many of the species found at Rough Hill are very rare.

As at Briddlesford, how we manage scrub is also a critical part of what we do. Scrub is excellent habitat for nesting birds, but we can't allow it to take over or Rough Hill would stop being an orchard habitat.

While we try to keep most of the reserve free of scrub, there is a defined area where it has become gappy, so we have started managing it in order to allow it to grow back thicker and denser.

Finally, we're also rejuvenating sections of the hedge that run along the top border of the orchard. The hedge has been unmanaged for many years, meaning that it's slowly turning into a line of trees. We have cut them down to an appropriate height, and next year we'll plant new trees to fill in gaps within the hedge. Some trees have been left uncut as they're also good for wildlife.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to you

Thank you to all those who have chosen PTES to support or to donate to in memory of a loved one. Raising funds for wildlife is critical, and such a meaningful way to remember and honour friends and family members.

Poster for pangolins

As well as creating this brilliant piece of artwork, Nancy also carried out a sponsored book read.

Young supporter **Nancy Stanbridge** raised £479 for our pangolin appeal by doing a sponsored read-a-thon. She also made a YouTube video about pangolins, wrote a song and created this brilliant poster for her Brownies charity badge.

Nancy read six books in just three weeks (and her sister made a hedgehog house, too). What a great achievement, thank you Nancy! ●

Find out more
ptes.org/pangolin

Hailey nails it

Hailey is raising money for different charities in memory of her mum, Maria.

Nail artist Hayley Thomas started a nail art series #12monthsof12collabs after her mum passed away suddenly. Her mum Maria loved all animals, so Hayley wanted to do something to remember her by.

Hayley is choosing a new charity each month to support. 'I know my help for all these charities would make her smile,' Hailey says. For every nail art created, £1 is donated to charity and Maria's sister, Nicky, will also donate £10 each month in memory of her sister. ●

Hayley's dormouse nail designs raised money for PTES.

From Battersea to the Balearics

Our supporters have been walking in London and swimming off Mallorca to help raise money for us.

Harrison Kelly walked a mile a day in May, raising an incredible £280 for PTES's work on hedgehogs. To keep his walks interesting, he explored different places near his home, finishing with a last walk in Battersea Park near the PTES office.

'I picked your charity because I wanted to support the wildlife that is native to the routes that I am taking and the area that I live in,' Harrison says. You certainly did that Harrison, thank you!

Meanwhile, **Alex Todd** swam 3.8km in open water in Mallorca back in May, raising £1,453 for PTES. 'I started training for it at the end of February in our local 20-metre pool four times a week,' Alex says. 'Then I went to Crete at the beginning of May for my first training sea swim. Although I had a wet suit, at 17˚C, it felt cold and I was still shivering even in the sauna!'

Alex joined an organised sea swim, and said it was really well managed. Although the sea had been stormy and full of jellyfish in the days leading up to the event, luckily it was calm and clear on the day of the event. ●

Share's share

After an amazing donation, we gave employees of ShareGift a unique peek at our work – and the lives of water voles as well.

ShareGift donates unwanted shares to many charities every year, and this year, PTES received a generous £22,500 donation from the company. To thank them, our **Water Vole Officer Emily Luck** and **Head of Fundraising Rachel Lawrence** hosted a small group of ShareGift staff at RSPB Rainham Marshes for a walk and talk.

They surveyed a water vole transect, found some water vole droppings and discussed PTES' work in depth. It was a fantastic opportunity to show donors the direct impact of their support. ●

New lodgings in Leicester

A small group of dormice have been released into a deer park in Leicestershire and seem to be thriving.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our dormouse appeal this year, helping to raise £30,000 so far. This summer's dormouse release took place in Bradgate Park, a medieval deer park close to the city of Leicester.

It was a great success. Over twenty dormice were taken to Leicestershire; the animals, in their nest boxes, were placed into release cages stashed with fruit, vegetables, other food, hazel branches and water. Over the following week and a half, volunteers visited every day to make sure the dormice were healthy and eating well.

After a final health check by vets from ZSL and Twycross Zoo, the cages were opened, allowing the dormice their first chance to explore their new woodland home. Supplementary food continued to be provided for a few months.

Encouragingly, the new residents of Bradgate Park were soon foraging for natural food and producing litters of young, bolstering the population. ●

In Martyn's memory

Martyn Hemingway was a true wildlife enthusiast, so his family wanted to reflect his passions after he passed away.

A huge and heartfelt thanks to Martyn Hemingway's family after they raised £1,040 in his memory following his death earlier this year. His wife, Susan Hemingway, contacted us about their fundraising efforts and why they plumped for PTES as the charity to donate to.

'Martyn absolutely loved British wildlife,' she tells us. 'He would keep our bird feeders topped up and loved taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch where we were fortunate enough to report sightings of goldfinches, greenfinches and long-tailed tits among the more common birds.'

When a hedgehog was spotted in the Hemingways' garden one evening, Martyn quickly built a hedgehog hotel, and it didn't take long for it to be occupied. Martyn and Susan were able to watch Viv (as they called her, below) tucking into bowls of food they left out for her.

Hedgehogs weren't the only mammals that visited the Hemingway garden restaurant – dog food and appropriate leftovers were put out for the foxes, too. 'Many nights he had barely got back into the house before a fox was peering over the garden wall and checking that it was safe to come in,' Susan says. 'A female fox brought her four cubs into the garden one year, and Martyn delighted in watching them chase each other while mum tried to shepherd them to the food bowl.'

Thanks for these lovely memories, Susan – and the very generous donation, too. ●

And thank you to all our supporters who have donated to our fundraising appeals. Your continued and generous support makes it possible for us to carry out conservation work and fund vital research and campaigns.

people's trust for endangered species

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