



DECEMBER 2018
NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

The north Kent team head down South

PG. 3

Ranger Round Up

PG. 4

Festive fun





PARTNERSHIP WORKING

On 15 November, the Bird Wise team took a trip down to Havant in Hampshire to attend the Annual Mitigation Partnership Meet-up. The day was kindly hosted by the team at Bird Aware Solent, a partnership similar to ours working to reduce disturbance to the birds that spend winter on the beautiful Solent coastline.

Attendees included Bird Aware, Thames Basin Heath Partnership, Natural England, Dorset Dogs, South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership, Devon Loves Dogs, Essex Coast RAMS and RSPB.

The day started with each partnership giving a brief introduction to their project, detailing key progress and future plans.

Natural England then gave a fascinating talk on implementing measures designed to change behaviour and the psychology behind this. We then broke into groups to discuss how we could use what we had learned in our own projects and how to monitor behavioural change.

At lunchtime we had the opportunity to exchange literature and promotional materials, including some goodies that the dog certainly appreciated!

In the afternoon a number of workshops were held looking at various topics including 'dog-focused' projects, engagement at events, ranger tactics, strategy writing, monitoring and many more.

Finally, there was a guided site visit to see Bird Aware in action.

It was a fantastic day, providing some great opportunities to share experiences and best practice, and to meet with other like-minded organisations.

We look forward to hosting the 2019 annual meet-up in north Kent!





RANGER ROUND-UP

Rangers Julie and Mel have been out and about in all weathers speaking to people about how they can be Bird Wise. We love hearing stories about the history of the marshes from people that have grown up in the area. There is always an opportunity to discover something new from old buildings or a person that remembers activities that used to take place on the estuary.

It's not just going for long walks though, they do also like to roll their sleeves up and get their hands dirty. They have taken part in several beach cleans organized by Guardians of the Deep across north Kent. This week they went to Milton Creek Country Park in Sittingbourne and helped the friends group to plant a lot of new trees around the park. This kind of engagement really helps to raise awareness of our project with people that are interested in protecting our estuarine habitats.

We are always keen to get involved in community projects around the north Kent marshes so please get in touch if you are organizing something and you'd like us to attend.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Friday 14 December was Christmas Jumper Day and our rangers made sure they joined in the fun by sporting their festive woollies to keep them warm out on site.

Ranger Mel even added some 'non-jingling' bells to her hat to ensure she didn't cause any disturbance to the birds.

INTO A NEW YEAR

We will be arranging a number of ranger-led walks in early 2019, open to both humans and well behaved dogs. Come along to a gentle guided walk and learn more about the wonderful birds that you can see on our stunning coastline through the winter months. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information.

Our offices are closed from 24-26 December and 1 January but our rangers will be out and about on sites from 27-31 December so please stop to say hi if you see us on your travels.

Don't forget, you can keep up to date with Bird Wise through our social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @birdwisenk or via our website.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year From all of the team at #BirdWise

