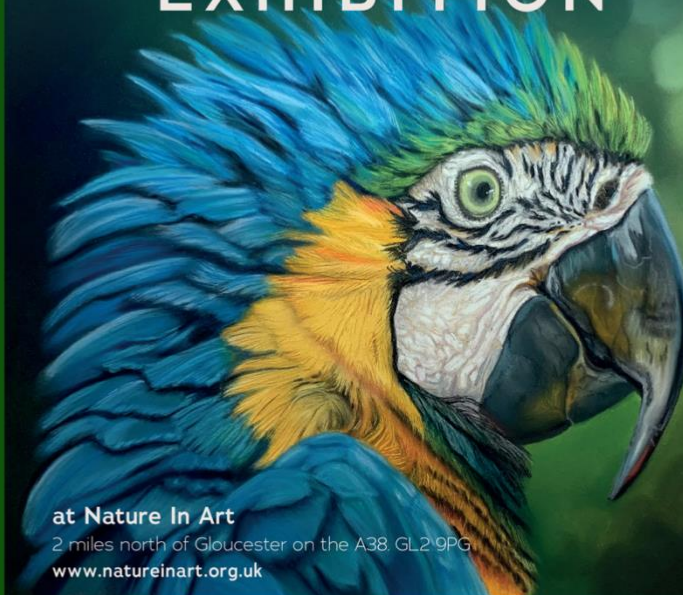


# On The Wild Side

The Wildlife Art Society International

## ANNUAL EXHIBITION



Artwork: Tracy Ruth Hancock

at Nature In Art

2 miles north of Gloucester on the A38 GL2 9PG  
[www.natureinart.org.uk](http://www.natureinart.org.uk)

**Preview evening:**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 6.00pm-8.30pm

**Open daily:**

10.00am-5.00pm, Sat 25<sup>th</sup> May-Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
(closes 3.30pm Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**FREE ENTRY**



The Wildlife Art Society International

[www.twasi.com](http://www.twasi.com)



The Wildlife Art Society International

# On the Wild Side



Welcome to our very first online Edition! It was my solution to fight the rising costs of our magazine *On the Wild Side*. The expression we have in French is: "On coupe la poire en deux" (We cut the pear in half). So, from now on, the Spring edition will be online and the second featuring all the winners of our Annual Exhibition will be printed as usual.

On the bright side, under that form, it will be easier for you to send your downloaded version to friends and family (all the better if you are featured in it) and possibly recruit new members that way.

I would like to thank Saras Crawshaw who helped me proofread this issue. If you think you can help for next issue, please contact me, your help will be greatly appreciated. In the meantime, enjoy this online issue, as there are such wonderful artworks as well as very interesting and original articles in there.

France Bauduin.

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Cover story

The Annual exhibition poster 2024  
Artwork: *Majestic Macaw*  
by Tracy Ruth Hancock



*The Wildlife Art Society International*  
*Art with Conservation*

Patrons: Dr Jane Goodall Ph.D., DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace  
Pauline Kidner Founder and Advisor for Secret World Wildlife Rescue  
Anna-Louise Pickering  
Mandy Shepherd  
Hazel Soan  
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Jackie Fearn	Treasurer
Dave Skidmore	
Tracey-Anne Sitch	
Jess Pritchard	
Liz Mulrey	

Website: [www.twasi.com](http://www.twasi.com)

Aims of TWASI

The main aim of the society is to promote interest in the wildlife art genre and in wildlife conservation by:

Creating a greater public awareness of the genre and work of its members.  
Assisting its members to further their skills and interests in the wildlife arts field.  
Keeping its members informed on relevant aspects and activities in the wildlife arts field.

Arranging and promoting exhibitions and displays for and on behalf of its members.  
Organising lectures, workshops, courses and other events to further the interests of its members.

*The Wildlife Art Society International is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Cardiff No. 5881535 and its registered office is at 98 Drove Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 3NW.*



## **Welcome to the Spring edition of “On the Wild Side” for 2024.**

This is the first Edition online! Rising costs have meant that from now on, the Spring Edition will be online, and the Winter Edition will be printed as normal.

You will find the Winners of the **Christmas Card Competition** in this issue and online. Next will be our **Summer Competition** – look for the entry details in this magazine – the closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The year has started with a **Members Workshop Weekend** at Nature in Art in March, with Daniel Wilson teaching Charcoal, Amber Tyldesley teaching Acrylic, and a really useful Sunday talk on “Promotion as an artist on internet & other media.”

Our **Annual Exhibition** at Nature in Art is coming up in May/June, and we look forward to our usual terrific display of Members’ work in all media and styles, with workshops and daily demonstrations as well to attract our visitors.

We have our Autumn **Exhibition** coming in September 4<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> October at **Hanbury Hall National Trust** – more details later.

Make the most of the **Online Gallery**. This is your online opportunity to show and hopefully sell your work.

With a full programme of **Day Visits**, do look out for venues near you and join in – it’s really valuable for getting reference for your work, and very enjoyable to meet up with other members at the same time. Increasingly, the visits are being organised by helpful members local to the area, and we hope this will widen the scope for all members round the country.

Our **October Members’ Weekend** will be at Nature in Art on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, with the AGM on the Saturday. This is always great fun as well as instructive, with workshops, lecture, critique and general fun chatting to old and new friends.

Our **Website** is the place to keep up with events in TWASI, as are our **Facebook** and **Instagram** pages. Make sure you visit them all regularly, keep your details up-to-date, and contribute when you can. You can make contributions to our **Facebook & Instagram** pages by sending them to Helen Geach at [helen.geach@gmail.com](mailto:helen.geach@gmail.com) or, if you are a member of the “**TWASI Private Members Facebook Group**”, you can add your contributions yourself. If you are not yet a member of it, contact Helen for an invitation. Let us know all about your artistic adventures, past & present, and any new work you are producing.

Our bi-annual Magazine “**On the Wild Side**” is full of articles and news about TWASI Members and other events we are all interested in. There’s always room for more, so get your contributions in for the next issue in Autumn 2024 to France Bauduin at [france.bauduin@googlemail.com](mailto:france.bauduin@googlemail.com)

We rely on **Volunteers** to run TWASI, and always urgently need more help - could you help in some way towards the Society? Or perhaps volunteer for the Central Council - expenses are paid - so why not make your own contribution – let me know what you can do.

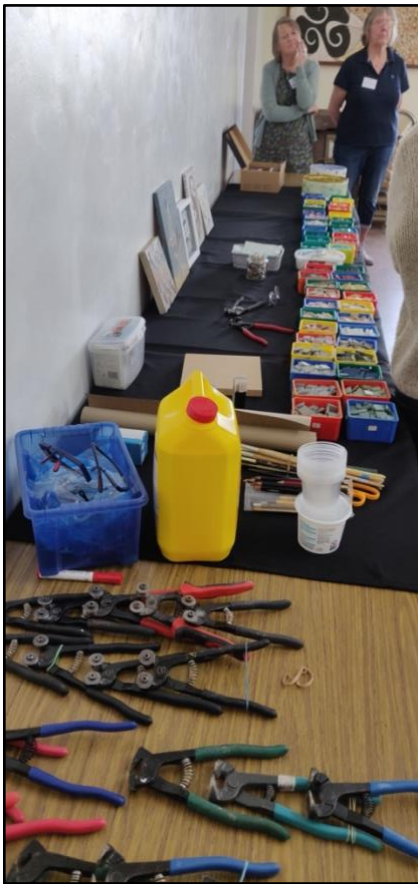
**Sarais Crawshaw – [saraiscrawshaw@aol.com](mailto:saraiscrawshaw@aol.com)**

## The 2023 AGM and Members Weekend at Nature in Art 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October

We had a brilliant weekend at Nature in Art at the beginning of October for our AGM and Members Weekend. The weather was fabulous and everyone enjoyed themselves as they always do.

Some new faces joined us for the weekend having joined TWASI this year and a few old ones missing but as usual it was a great mix of artists.

Two interesting workshops on the Saturday, mosaic with Erica Bibbing which I took part in and I had a most restful and creative day after all the organizing of the event. (Do take a look at her Web site her work is just wonderful [www.ericabibbingmosaic.com](http://www.ericabibbingmosaic.com)).





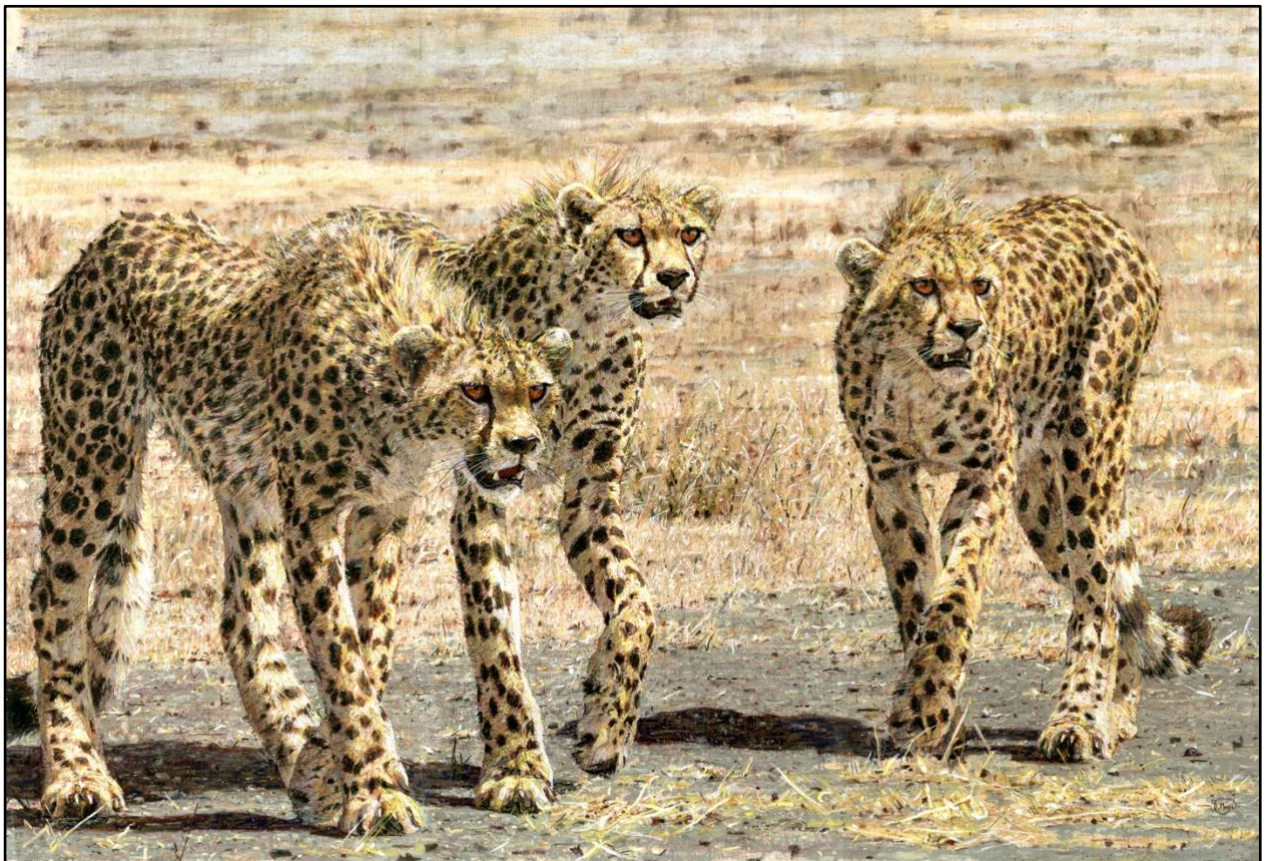
Ian Coleman (a past TWASI member for many years) took a workshop using pencil and oil on a gesso'd board. He decided to put everyone on an equal footing and asked them to draw and paint dinosaurs using this very interesting technique. Ian always has something new, interesting to say and impart when teaching.

[www.colemangallery.com](http://www.colemangallery.com)





On the Sunday we spent the day with pastel artist Stella Mays who delighted us all with her openness and technical virtuosity. Her pastel work is just amazing and vibrant, which she is now exploring through the medium of oils.



The critique was great too and she was generous with her praise as well as useful tips for the members who brought in artwork. I must say the standard of artwork displayed was very high and varied.



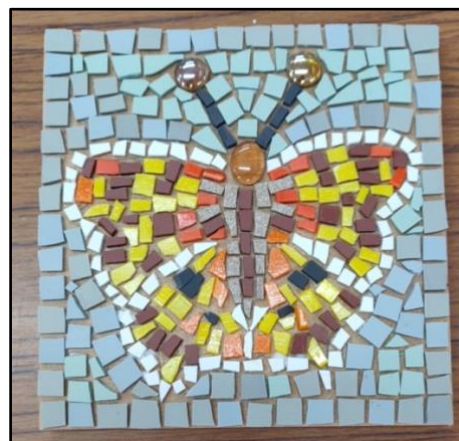
John Horton bravely put another snow leopard in oils on the wall, the background of the piece is really quite stunning and the snow leopard itself coming along very well, Stella was very complimentary. Stella had been let in on the joke from last year so knew that he might be in for a ribbing from those present again. The lesson here being don't bring your partner to a critique as they are usually, after yourself, your worst critic. John takes it all in his stride as always with great humour and Barbara's comments the previous year were quite right of course. Those who came last year but not this will remember the afternoon well and be really pleased to know John sold the leopard after taking all the advice on board.

I don't think Eric Watson has ever recovered!

Thank you as usual to Simon, Chris and the team at Nature in Art for letting us loose in the education block and museum. They give us the space free every year and we are so grateful to them. I am pleased to report that as a self funding weekend we covered all costs. Jackie and I gave a huge sigh of relief here.

Thank you to all those members especially Kate Smith for supporting it and enjoying yourselves.

Valerie Briggs.





## TWASI CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2023

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE WINNER – SILVANA SUMNER WITH “*WINTER FOOD SHOP*”

“The artwork was inspired by a photograph by Emmanuelle Keller used with permission. The challenge for me was to capture a sense of drama, as I imagined the fox prowling discreetly, led by his raised paw, in the daily hunt for food.

I painted it on velour paper with Pastel. I chose velour because I felt it was a surface sympathetic to the soft gentle qualities I could see in the fox, although clearly it was also an intrepid hunter.

I very much enjoyed creating the sharp contrast between the red coat of the fox against the severe landscape, by adding the effect of snow in pastel.”



# TWASI CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2023

## 2nd PLACE – SILVANA SUMNER WITH “SNOW-SPECKLED STAG”

“A friend of mine visited the Isle of Mull in November a few years ago, and came back with some amazing images that she gave me permission to use.

I was totally inspired by the landscape colours in the photograph, which reflected the Stag’s coat & camouflaged it into the background, so couldn’t wait to try a painting.

The original painting is in acrylic, and very autumnal, but I really wanted to find out if the painting would work in a winter landscape, so I went over it in pastel. I was really pleased to see the glow of the original colours still showing through, but with a wintry feel in snow.”



# TWASI CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2023

## 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE – KAREN COULSON WITH “*PUFFINS UNDER THE MISTLETOE*”

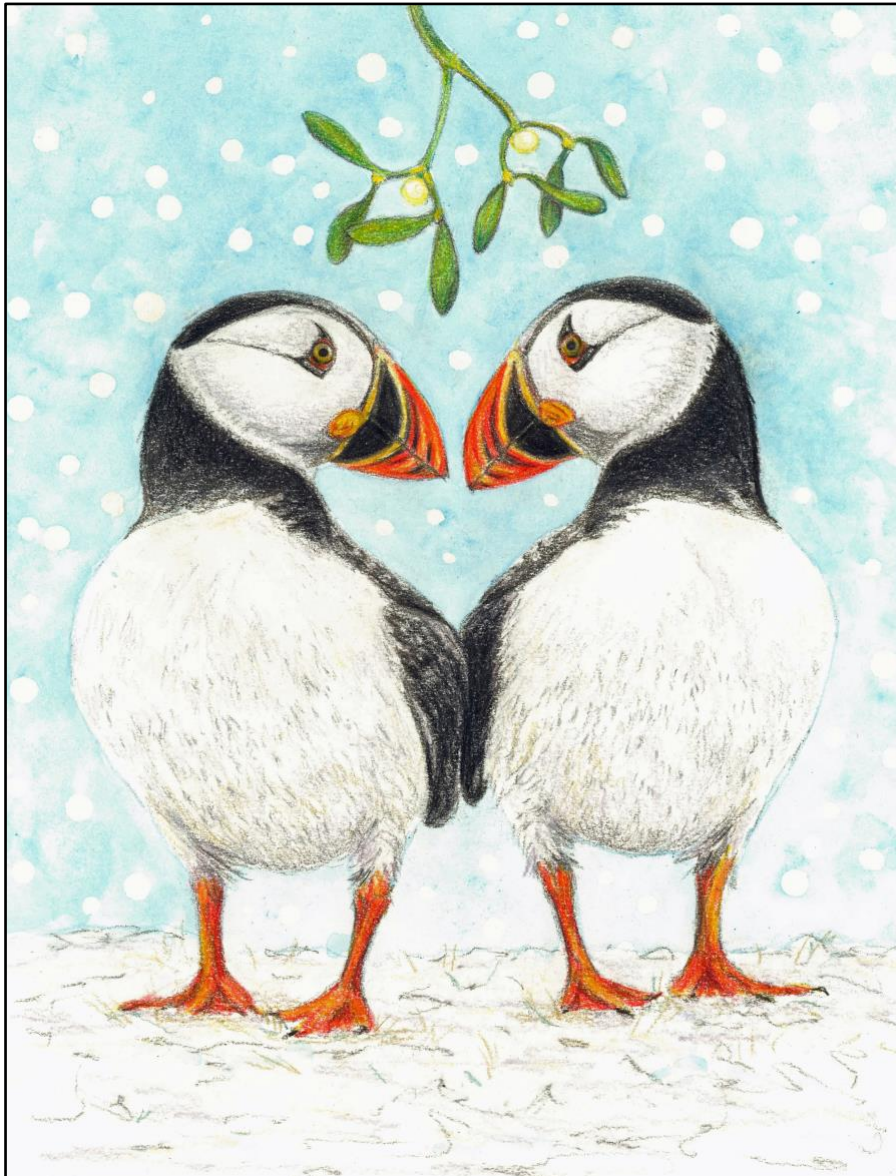
“Derwent Watercolour pencils and Coloursoft pencils on white mountboard.

This was just a bit of Christmas fun!

I was delivering a Two-Puffin Picture Workshop at Nature in Art, and offered this picture as an alternative to the “sensible” advertised picture.

Masking fluid was applied for the falling snow in the sky. A blue watercolour pencil was used for the sky colour.

Coloursoft pencils were used to complete the Puffins and snowy ground – so it offered quite a few techniques within the picture.”



## TWASI Visit to Hamerton Zoo – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

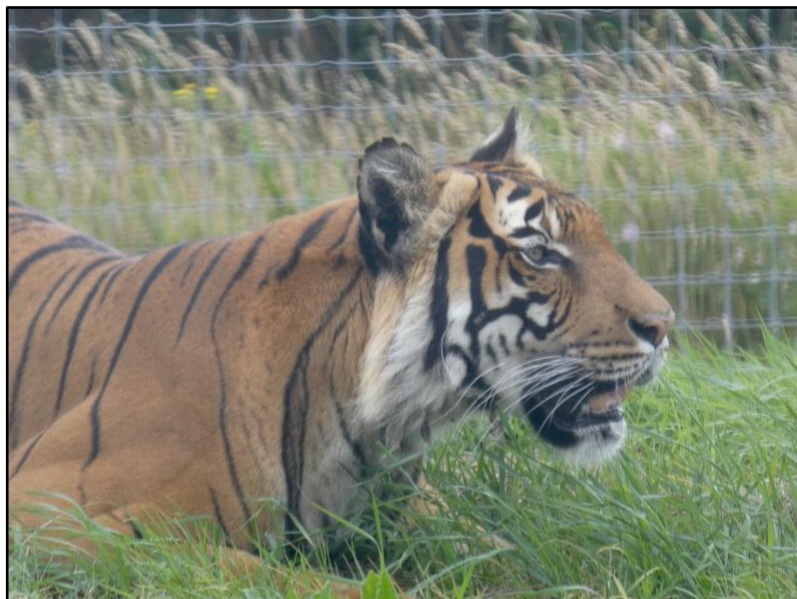
A few of us visited Hamerton Zoo in Cambridgeshire on a rather cloudy but warm day.

They seem to specialise in Big and small cats, and there were quite a variety, from huge White Tigers to smaller cats such as Serval and Oncilla – this is a rather pretty one about the size of a domestic cat that I hadn't seen before.



All the enclosures are roomy, giving the larger animals plenty of roaming about space.

The tigers are overlooked by several areas with large glass windows, making it easy to watch them as they stride past or dip in their pond – though I have never been lucky enough to see this.



The cheetah in particular have a very large grassland to roam in, in fact it was difficult to see any which were lying down in the grass.



There was also a new enclosure with several Syrian Brown Bears, and a young one was enjoying playing in a large lake.



The collection is varied, and there are plenty of unusual species. There is also more building work going on as the park expands, so it's well worth a visit.

Sarais Crawshaw

## TWASI Visit to Dudley Zoo – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

A small group of us went to Dudley Zoo near Birmingham, on what turned out to be a scorching hot day.

Luckily there was a slight breeze, and the zoo has plenty of tree cover, so we were able to find some shade. Unfortunately, many of the animals were also hot, and especially the big cats, were mostly asleep!

The zoo is on a steep slope, so getting up to the top was quite an effort, we took it very slowly!

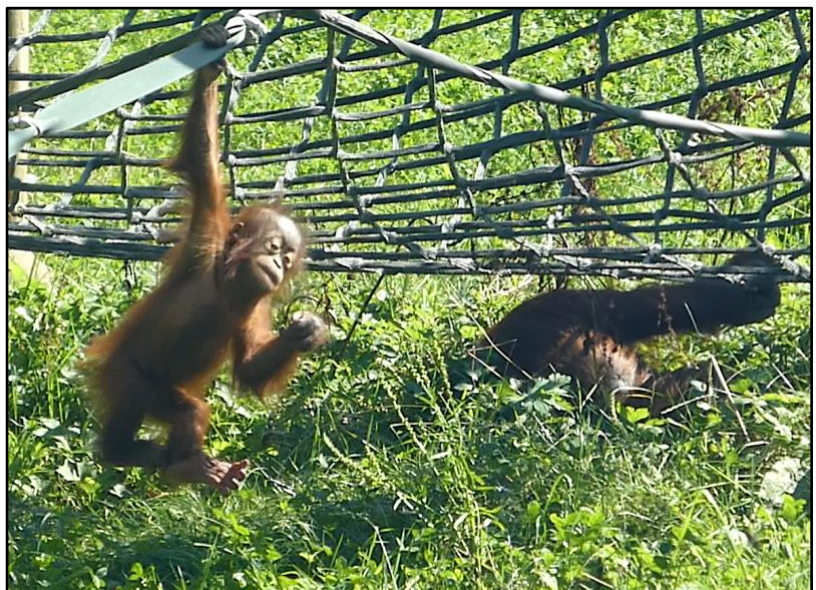
The Sumatran Tiger, Snow Leopard and Lions were far too sleepy to do more than blink at us, and the beautiful Lynx just rolled over – fancy wearing those fur coats in that heat.



The only one with any energy was a young Orang-Utan, making the most of some quite new gymnastic equipment in their enclosure. This was good to see, as the Orang-Utans previously had a rather restricted area.

The Zoo has fluctuated in quality over the years, but currently seems to be improving many of the enclosures, and the animals looked well cared for and with plenty of space and equipment. If only the same could be said for the catering.

Sarais Crawshaw.



## TWASI Visit to Charlecote Park – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023



A good sized group of us met up on a lovely autumn day at Charlecote Park, a National Trust property in Warwickshire.



The day started as usual with a welcoming cuppa and a chat, as we caught up with everyone's news.



The park houses a large herd of Fallow Deer, some of which we could see in the distance, many dozing in the shade of the trees as the day warmed up



It got so warm that we all ate our lunch sitting in the courtyard café of the Hall and were pleased to see dragonflies and butterflies about in the sunshine.

The sun had also brought out the public, and the overflow car park was full, but everyone dispersed around the huge parkland, so it wasn't crowded.

Sarais Crawshaw.



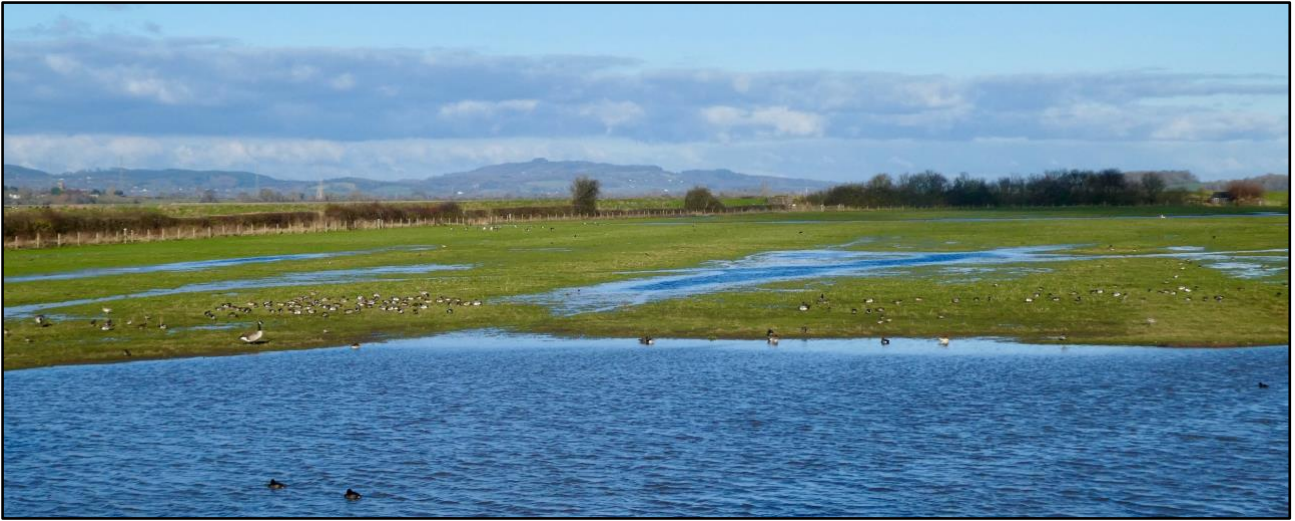
## TWASI Visit to Slimbridge – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

A large group of us met at Slimbridge for an early year Get-Together, and it was lovely to meet up, eat together and chat – there was a lot of chat! - and to look at the birds.



The weather was cold but sunny, and we had good views from all of the hides, seeing large flocks of plover and lapwings amongst others. After recent heavy flooding, the fields were full, and all the waterfowl and waders were making the most of it.





There were also some Bewick Swans, though apparently the numbers are well down compared to previous years. Milder winters may be causing them to stay further north.



As the day came to a close, some of us waited to see the wild bird feed from the large hide, and saw many birds flying in and congregating in the glowing evening light.

Sarais Crawshaw.



## **TWASI MEMBERS SUMMER COMPETITION**

A Competition for all TWASI Members.

1. Entries may be in any media, the **wildlife** theme for 2024 is **“NATURE IN MOTION”**.

2. Entries may be entered as a jpeg image (300dpi, up to 5MB), and sent to [saraiscrawshaw@aol.com](mailto:saraiscrawshaw@aol.com)

Please title your jpeg with **Name, Title, Medium**, and use Email Subject **“TWASI Competition”**

or – Post an A4 photograph to TWASI, Appletrees, Main Street, Willey, Rugby. CV23 0SH, with **Name, Title & Medium** written on the back. If you wish to have the photograph returned, please enclose a s.a.e.

3. Closing date for entries: **1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**.

4. Entries will be judged by the TWASI Central Council members. The winning entry will be shown on the TWASI website and in the following edition of “On the Wild Side” Magazine, and if available, may be exhibited at the following Annual Exhibition.

5. Prize: **£50**

## New TWASI Member – Megan Elizabeth

“Growing up in rural Derbyshire I have always had a love of nature, the countryside and animals. As a child we had farm animals, horses and many, many dogs - but horses were always my life. I could always be found at the stables or out and about on a pony.

My family were very creative and I was always encouraged to spend my time drawing and crafting (clearly I never lost that habit!). I would take my pencils and paper everywhere I went and would fill sketchbook after sketchbook of animals, plants and countryside drawings and paintings.

I now live in a beautiful part of Yorkshire with my boyfriend and our dog, Jess. We are lucky to live right on the edge of a huge expanse of moorland and countryside and I love to explore and find beautiful places to get out into nature.

I love to take inspiration from the wild places and the wildlife around me for my drawings. I adore capturing farm animals and horses as well as people's beloved pets. Capturing the animal's personality and heart is so important to me. I mostly work in coloured pencils and pastels but I also enjoy trying other mediums from time to time.”

Megan is also the Chairman of the Association of Animal Artists and an ambassador for the charity Wild Welfare.

Megan Elizabeth.

[www.megan-art.com](http://www.megan-art.com)

[www.instagram.com/artbymegan/?hl=en-gb](https://www.instagram.com/artbymegan/?hl=en-gb)



## New TWASI Member – Terry Aubrey

I was born and educated in Gloucester and still live in the city. I left school in 1958 and worked for many years in the legal profession as a Legal Cashier. Later I went into private practice as a Tax Accountant in Gloucester and fully retired in 2021.

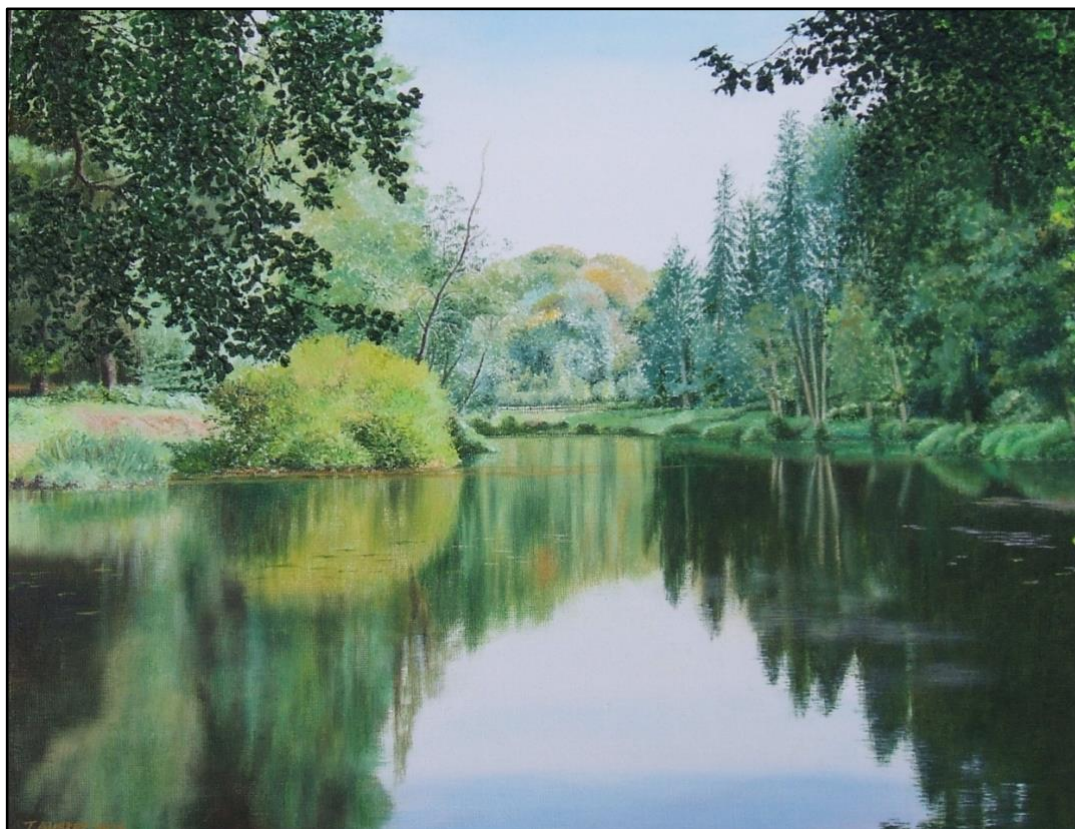
Although I have never taken up art professionally, painting and drawing has remained my main pastime. One of my other interests is Theatre, in particular the architecture of theatre buildings a lot of which have long gone and several of which I have painted. I am a member of The Gloucestershire Society of Artists and exhibit regularly in their exhibitions.

The mediums I get on best with are pen and ink and oils. I apply a lot of my paintings like watercolour hence sometimes mounting and glazing is appropriate to some of my pictures. My subject matter is varied but consists mainly of landscapes and recently birds.



Terry Aubrey.

Email: [terenceaubrey255@btinternet.com](mailto:terenceaubrey255@btinternet.com)



## New TWASI Member – Walenty Pytel

Walenty Pytel is an internationally renowned contemporary artist and is recognised as a leading metal and bronze sculptor of birds and animalia. His works include the Jubilee Fountain of Commonwealth Beasts underneath Big Ben and three egrets called “Take Off” on the approach roundabout at Birmingham International Airport.

He has been commissioned by Royalty, public bodies, corporations and private collectors alike. His work now has a worldwide following as a leading British sculptor in his unique style. Please contact us to book your visit. The cost is £12.00 per person which will include a tour of the gallery and studio and a printed guide to all the other sculpture locations on the trail, which you can visit at your leisure.

Whilst at the gallery you will also be able to view a short film about Walenty's life and work. Sculptures, both metal and bronze, limited edition prints, cards and his book with film on [www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com) can all be purchased from the gallery. We can arrange overnight accommodation in Herefordshire if required.

Email: [walentypytelgallery@gmail.com](mailto:walentypytelgallery@gmail.com)

Web site: [www.walentypytel.com](http://www.walentypytel.com)

Walenty Pytel.



## Rosana Venturini travels



My first time in Africa was in 2005 and while spending 3 months in South Africa and Namibia I was bitten by the African Bush Bug and need to return yearly and sometimes twice a year to get the booster shots ☺

There is this intense sense of complete relaxation and normality when spending time in the bush. It is something hard to explain but it is a feeling I can't get anywhere else.

My husband and I have travelled to over 20 African Countries, and we like to explore the National Parks and Reserves in each country we travel to.



Our trips are combination of camping and lodges. We have our own Landcruiser camper stored in South Africa for our use. It has everything we need to spend about 10 days anywhere with no facilities. No facilities, often mean, not even water.

It is priceless to wake up in the middle of the night to the sound of a lion roaring and walking through camp, or with young lions playing up and down a tree next to our car or an elephant feeding on a nearby tree.





These photos are from our May/June 2023 trip to the Kalahari Desert in Botswana – Mabua Game Reserve and Makgadikgadi Pans National Park and to Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe.

Rosana Venturini.



Note from the editor:

Rosana Won the Wildlife Art Society International Award last summer with *Striped Sunset* but could not send us her photo with her medal for our Autumn publication in time because she was travelling at the time.



# Worldwide Wildlife Art

I'm a retired Yorkshire-born art teacher, living on the south coast, where as well as running workshops for community art groups and working on commissions, I volunteer for ABUN (Artists and Biologists Unite for Nature). The biologists take incredible photos of the wildlife with which they are working, and through ABUN'S Facebook app the artists receive and work from these photos. We provide the conservation community with original images to promote awareness of critically endangered species. Completed artwork is posted back to the biologists' organisations, to be made into posters to be displayed in local schools, social centres, and mayor's offices in the villages and towns around conservation areas.

The artworks can be in any medium but must be two dimensional. Through the years I have produced work in pencil, coloured pencils, fine liner, soft pastels, watercolour, and acrylics. As the original founders of the group lived and worked in Brazil, many of the species are from the Amazon and surrounding areas.

This is a display of some of the work I've produced for ABUN.....



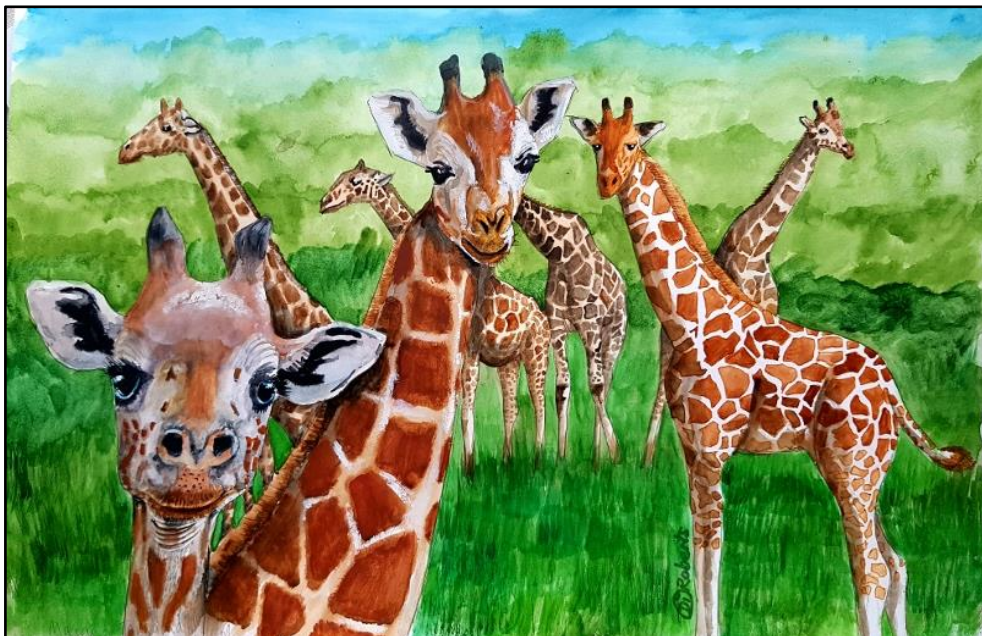
.....and here are examples of some of the artworks I've loved creating.



The Day of the Amazon, coloured pencils. The world's largest tropical forest in Brazil, essential for climate balance, is home to a huge variety of creatures.



World otter day, watercolour pencils and fine liners.  
More than 20 countries take part in a global awareness day every year.  
Otters are now an endangered species in the UK.



Wild giraffes, watercolour.  
Giraffe populations in northern Africa are rapidly declining, with human activity cited as the main cause. Habitat loss and illegal poaching have left giraffes at risk of extinction.



The Spix's macaw, painted in pastel pencils.  
This parrot species was declared extinct in the wild,  
but has been reintroduced in Brazil through careful breeding programmes.



The Sira curassow birds of Peru (felt pens/fineliners)  
They are listed as critically endangered by BirdLife International,  
as they are threatened by habitat destruction and are hunted for meat.



Baby rhinos, soft pastels on textured paper.  
Baby Rhino Rescue supports African organisations saving baby rhinos orphaned when their mothers were killed by poachers.



Year of the parrot – Brazil. Water-soluble gel pens.  
Trapping wild parrots for the pet trade, as well as hunting, habitat loss, and competition from invasive species, has greatly reduced their numbers, with parrots being exploited more than any other group of wild birds.



And finally.....

This coloured pencil drawing was produced for biologists working to preserve the Granite Dells, an incredibly unique landscape and wildlife habitat in the heart of Northern Arizona.

Any TWASI artists wanting more details of ABUN, including current projects, info as follows:

*Website: [abun4nature.org](http://abun4nature.org)*

*Facebook: ABUN – Artists and Biologists Unite for Nature*

Or feel free to contact me through my website *[dirobertsartworks.com](http://dirobertsartworks.com)*

Di Roberts.

## LAID HEDGES/DORSET COPPICE GROUP

I think I am very privileged to have been born and bred in the Isle of Purbeck – Swanage in fact, South West Dorset. Although the coastline to-day is promoted 100% i.e. the “Jurassic Coast” I have always been interested in its countryside.

As a young boy I would often cycle into nearby Studland and explore the Heathland and look out for the wildlife. But in particular the birds, which have always been my main interest. In later years my countryside pursuits, as well as painting birds of course, introduced me to the Dorset Coppice Group and a friend said how about me joining the Group. This was back in 1995!

One such event involving Hedge Laying, held not too far away from Dorchester, really created a special interest for me. As to watch from start to finish this “Dorset Style” laid hedge was certainly inspiring – perhaps for a painting?



*Dorset Style Laid Hedge/Kestrel (Watercolour)*

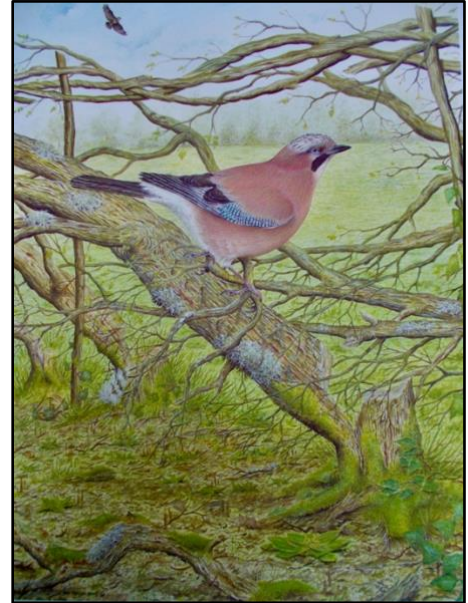
There are many styles of Laid Hedges found across the UK, the Dorset, Midlands and Northern to name but a few. So far I have painted a Dorset and a Northern style Laid Hedge with the added bird or two.



*Northern Style Laid Hedge/Partridge (Watercolour)*

I have also painted a very “Rustic” style. This particular hedge was not completed 100% by the elderly gentleman I knew as he only had limited materials i.e. very little tree growth to work from. You can see from my painting “*Rustic/Jay*” (Watercolour).

The Dorset Coppice Group is very well supported and has a very strong membership of all age groups. One Member is a competition winner many times over for Hedgelaying and won the National Championship Award a few years ago. He has assisted and advised King Charles regarding the King’s laid hedges at Highgrove House and Sandringham where several competitions have taken place. The King is Patron of the National Hedge Laying Society.



It is good to see our Laid Hedges making a comeback – far better than to see a Hedge which has been “attacked” by a flail!

‘REMEMBER, LAY IT DON’T FLAIL IT.’

Roy Aplin - Dorset.

## The Pollyanna Pickering Foundation Winter Prize Draw

Wildlife cameraman and TV personality **Hamza Yassin** joined TWASI patron Anna-Louise Pickering, President of **The Pollyanna Pickering Foundation**, to draw the winning ticket in their Winter prize draw.



Hamza is a British wildlife cameraman and presenter, known for his role as **Ranger Hamza** on the children's television channel Cbeebies and his work on popular shows such as Countryfile and Animal Park. However he became known and loved by a much wider audience in 2022 when he lifted the coveted glitter ball trophy as the winner of the twentieth series of the BBC show **Strictly Come Dancing!**

Hamza was born in Sudan and moved to Northampton at the age of 8 after his parents – both doctors – were invited to work in the UK. At 21, he visited a friend in Ardnamurchan, a peninsula on the west coast of Scotland, in order to photograph stags. He loved it so much he packed his bags and relocated there two weeks later. For the first nine months, he lived out of his car, showering at a local campsite and washing his clothes at the local community centre. He progressed to staying in empty holiday homes while he built his photography business and guided tours, and eventually bought his own home. Ever since he has loved to share his passion for ornithology and wildlife, and was happy to support the Foundation by selecting the winning ticket.

Between the sales of prize draw tickets, donations and a percentage of sales from Pollyanna's Summer exhibition the Foundation has raised £5,000.00 to build a bat rehabilitation unit at the Harper Asprey Wildlife Hospital here in the UK

Mrs I. Clayton of Sutton in Ashfield in Nottinghamshire is the lucky winner of a beautiful hand-embellished giclee picture. A full list of winners can be found on the website [www.pollyannapickering.co.uk](http://www.pollyannapickering.co.uk)

Anna-Louise Pickering.



**Date for your diary**  
**2024 AGM and Members Weekend at Nature in Art**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

This is advance notice of the 2024 TWASI AGM and Members Weekend. Booking will be open from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. You can reserve a place if you wish by contacting Valerie by email or telephone [v.briggs746@btinternet.com](mailto:v.briggs746@btinternet.com) 01905 26560 / 07542 423974

Booking forms will be sent out with the Spring Newsletter and via email by John Horton. You will be able to copy and paste the booking from the web version of the newsletter. A materials list will accompany your booking receipt.

We are really pleased to announce the guest artist on the Sunday will be Jamie Boots who is a past member of TWASI and well known to many of you. He will give a presentation in the morning and lead the critique in the afternoon. It should be a wonderful day.

The workshops will be given by another past TWASI member from the very early years, Alan Woollett and will be on Birds in Coloured Pencils. The subject will be a Heron on black background.

The alternative workshop is from a lady new to Nature in Art and us Lucy Burton; her subject will be Butterflies and Birds in oils/acrylics.

As usual the AGM will be at 6pm on the Saturday evening followed by the fish 'n' chip supper.

There has been a slight rise in the prices for this year due to increased costs for food but we have endeavoured to keep the price for the whole weekend below £100.

A real bargain for such a wonderfully enjoyable weekend so book early.

**BOOKING FORMS WILL BE IN YOUR EMAIL IN BOX FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2024**

The whole weekend £90      (Guest if undersubscribed £100)

Workshops only £50      (Guest if undersubscribed £55)

Saturday evening guest £15

Sunday Jamie Boots presentation and talk member or guest £25

Sunday all day as a member or guest £40



[www.jamieboots.com](http://www.jamieboots.com)

[www.alanwoollettart.com](http://www.alanwoollettart.com)

[www.lucyburtonart.com](http://www.lucyburtonart.com)

## Guest Artist Jamie Boots

Past TWASI member Jamie Boots has become well known as a graphite artist and has many followers of his beautifully rendered drawings. He teaches regularly at Nature in Art and has held workshops for TWASI over the years inspiring many of our membership.

Jamie is originally from New Zealand moving to the UK in early life and is now based in a quiet village in Wales. He had an interest in art from an early age, but this wouldn't develop until much later in life with a passion for art and wildlife going hand in hand. Different mediums were tried but graphite pencil was the most natural choice allowing the ability to capture mood and character in fine detail.

Jamie is self-taught and has learnt a lot over the years through experimentation of how graphite can be manipulated to create different effects and textures. His work has been exhibited widely in galleries and exhibitions as well as a wide number of pictures being published as limited-edition prints. With an interest in his work and the techniques used Jamie regularly runs workshops as well as online tutorials.

In 2021 Jamie started a YouTube channel to show the process that goes into creating a picture as well as reviewing various products and materials. Jamie has many plans going ahead with some pictures estimated to take over a year to create. What starts with an idea then must be planned, composition refined and then created.

# **THE WILDLIFE ART SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL - DAY VISITS 2024.**

**MANY thanks to Members hosting several visits this year.**

**Wear your Membership Badges!**

**COTSWOLD FALCONRY, Batsford, Moreton in Marsh, Glos, GL56 9AT – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**

**[www.cotswold-falconry.co.uk](http://www.cotswold-falconry.co.uk)** Over 150 birds of 50+ species, in aviaries and 3 flying displays a day. Next to large Garden Centre with Café. Deer herd in park next door. Adults £15, Seniors £12 – **[Book online.](#)**

**BEMPTON CLIFFS RSPB, Cliff Lane, Bridlington, E Yorks. YO15 1JF – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April.**

**[www.bempton.cliffs@rspb.org.uk](mailto:www.bempton.cliffs@rspb.org.uk)** Spectacular cliffs where half a million seabirds gather – puffins, gannets, kittiwakes & guillemots. Café, Visitor Centre. Guided tour booked. Overnight accommodation nearby. Free to RSPB members, Non-members £7. Hosted by Helen Rawlings – **[Contact hrawlings@sky.com in plenty of time.](mailto:hrawlings@sky.com)**

**BIRDLAND PARK & GARDENS, Rissington Rd, Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2AY – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

**[www.birdland.co.uk](http://www.birdland.co.uk)** 9 acres of gardens & woodland, over 500 birds including rare species. Cranes, flamingos, hornbills, penguins, owls, parrots, waterfowl. **[Book online](#)** - Adults £11.95, Seniors £10.95. Café. Car Park next door in Rissington Rd, 5 hrs £5.80, 10 hrs £8.40, pay by app, card or phone.

**SHAPWICK HEATH NNR, Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Rd, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset. BA6 9TT – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May. [www.avalonmarshes.org](http://www.avalonmarshes.org)** Visit the Somerset Levels for summer migrant birds, bitterns, cranes, great white egret, marsh harrier, possibly otter, roe deer. Hides. Parking £3 all day. Tea shop. Possibly also Ham Wall RSPB wetland reserve. You will need to walk a few miles on flat ground to make the most of it.

**Contact Trevor Smith – [trevoranthonymsmith@gmail.com](mailto:trevoranthonymsmith@gmail.com)**

**YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK, Warning Tongue Lane, Doncaster DN4 6TB – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May.**

**[www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com](http://www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com)** Walk-through wildlife adventure, with leopard, tiger, red panda, rhino, lions, polar bears. Café or picnic. From £20.99, **[Tickets online in advance cheaper than on door.](#)**

**Contact Helen Rawlings – [hrawlings@sky.com](mailto:hrawlings@sky.com)**

**CHESTER ZOO, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

**[www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)** 35,000 animals in 125 acres, sun bears, red pandas, African painted dogs, cheetahs, jaguars, elephants, orang-utan, lemurs etc. Online Tickets Adults £31.81/£35.00 Gift Aid. Cafes. **[Booking online recommended.](#)** **Contact Karen Markham at [karenmarkham@live.com](mailto:karenmarkham@live.com)**

**THE HAWK CONSERVANCY, Sarson Lane, Weyhill, Andover, Hants. SP11 8DY – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.**

**[www.hawk-conservancy.org](http://www.hawk-conservancy.org)** Conservation charity in 22 acres woodland & wildflower meadow, 150 birds of prey. 3 Flying displays daily. Adults £19.99, Seniors £18.85 – **[pre-booking recommended.](#)**

**Contact Karen Burke at [karent\\_burke@sky.com](mailto:karent_burke@sky.com)**

**WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK, on A456 Kidderminster to Bewdley, DY12 1LF – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

**[www.wmsp.co.uk](http://www.wmsp.co.uk)** Drive-round safari – lions, tigers, zebra, rhino, painted dogs. Viewpoints to see animals on foot – elephant, giraffe, white rhino. African village on foot – lemurs, meerkats, hippos, red pandas, reptiles, sea lions. Food court. Weekend on gate £32 – **[cheaper advance tickets if booked online.](#)**

**BIRDWORLD, Holt Pound Lane, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 4LD – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September.**

**[www.birdworld.co.uk](http://www.birdworld.co.uk)** 26 acres landscaped park & gardens, over 1000 birds, 180 species from round the world. Interactive exhibits with birds flying in wide open spaces. Café. Adults £15.96, Seniors £14.36. **[Prebooking advised.](#)**

**Contact Karen Burke at [karent\\_burke@sky.com](mailto:karent_burke@sky.com)**

**CALKE ABBEY DEER PARK NNR (NATIONAL TRUST), Ticknall, Derbys DE73 7JF. – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October.**

**[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)** Ancient deer park – pasture, old oaks, autumn colours in woodland, wetland, hides. Fallow & red deer in enclosure. Restaurant & shops in stables. **[Park & Gardens Adult £7.50](#)**, Nat Trust members Free. House £12.50 extra, see largest natural history collection in National Trust. Nat Trust members Free.

**WELNEY WWT, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney nr Wisbech PE14 9TN – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November.**

**[www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)** 1000 acres of Ouse Washes, UK's largest seasonally flooded land. Wildfowl, waders, marsh harrier, godwits, snipe, Bewick Swans. Café, Trails, Hides, Swan Feed outside heated hide. Adults £9.40, Seniors £8.55. WWT members free.

Please let Sarais **[or the Hosting Member](#)** know **well beforehand** if you plan to join any of the visits, and you will be sent fuller details. **[Email Sarais Crawshaw – saraiscrawshaw@aol.com 01455 553270](mailto:saraiscrawshaw@aol.com)**