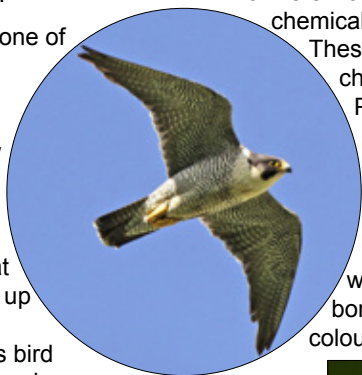


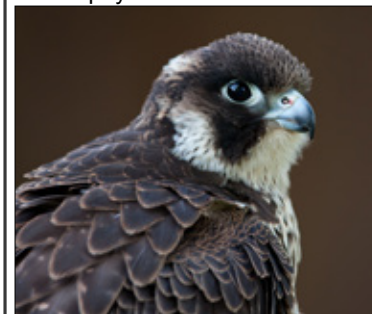
You say you want a revolution

Circling high in the blue skies above Sussex is one of the world's deadliest predators. Peregrines are hunting above us. Scanning the avian traffic in the Sussex airspace, their incredible vision locks on to an unsuspecting bird passing below and the Peregrine instantly negotiates one of the most sophisticated aerial manoeuvres possible. They stop flying. With wings and feet tucked in tightly, peregrines drop from the sky at an unbelievable speed – hurtling earthwards at up to 200 mph - the fastest creature on our planet. Everything, even the eyelids and nostrils on this bird are built for speed. Like a bomb made out of muscle and feathers, it'll decimate any victim in its path.



*Peregrine in flight*  
c Roger Wilmshurst  
Sussex Wildlife Trust

We're fortunate to still have these amazing birds here in Sussex. During WW2 their taste for pigeons (including those carrying wartime messages) saw Peregrines treated as if they were on the payroll of Mr Hitler himself. The Secretary of State for



*Peregrine Falcon*  
c Dave Kilbey  
Sussex Wildlife Trust

Air declared war on these falcons and issued the 'Destruction of Peregrine Falcons Order'. The birds were slaughtered, their nests destroyed. After we gave Adolf the old heave-ho, Peregrines were left alone and numbers began to recover. But they were to face an even more deadly threat than the British Government; Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (or DDT to its friends).

Farmers worldwide had started spraying a variety of wonderful new chemical insecticides all over the countryside to improve yields. These invisible poisons hit the bird at the top of the food chain the hardest. In 1958 there were 650 pairs of Peregrines in Britain. Six years later there were 68. Concerns over their decline sparked an investigation that led back to the source of the Peregrine poisoning and the world's eyes were opened to the reality of the damage that these chemicals could cause to our environment and to us. Rachel Carson wrote 'Silent Spring', the environmental movement was born and green was upgraded from a sort of yellowy-blue colour to an entire way of life.



*Peregrine Falcon*  
c Alan Price  
Gatehouse  
Studio  
Sussex  
Wildlife  
Trust

Today, perched on our cliffs and cathedrals, high above the organic food-filled shelves in kitchens across Sussex, the killer that kick-started the environmental uprising stands defiantly overlooking us all like a beaked Che Guevara. A feathered testament to revolution, strength and tofu veggie burgers.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)

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## Lockdown and the natural world around us



Each morning 8 until 9, I have been gazing out of windows over my cereal and taking part in #BreakfastBirdwatch. The direct result of

being stuck indoors looking for things to occupy one's time and promote wellbeing the RSPB launched this spin-off from Big Garden Birdwatch. As well as the usual subjects, there's the highlights like a sparrowhawk hunting, a woodpecker on a garden feeder - this is in the middle of town after all – and a chiffchaff. The latter is a spring migrant and the first I've seen in my garden this year.



*Chiffchaff*  
c John Bridges

I'm lucky to have a small piece of garden, which in my mind, is my own little nature reserve. Bee-flies patrol their airspace, alighting on lesser celandine to refuel. Bright splashes of yellow dandelion draw in hoverflies and bees as they buzz busily from flower to flower. Looking closer there are so many different species of bee already on the wing.



*Bee fly Celandine*



*Pink Campion*

Herb robert and pink campion add blushes of pink and a comma butterfly lands on the ivy warming itself in the sun. You can find all of these and more within a few yards of your doorstep and certainly on a trip to the shops.



*Comma Butterfly*  
c Grahame Madge

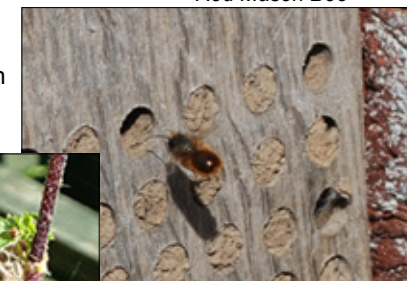
My garden may be small but I have created little pockets of habitat to encourage the wildlife in. As a result, I get to watch the tadpoles wriggling in the pond and dragonflies laying their eggs, mason bees industriously coming and going from the bee hotels and leafcutter bees cutting small pieces out of the dog rose leaves, caterpillars spinning a chrysalis on the nettle patch and emerging later as a butterfly, while greater stitchwort and wood anemones bring joy by their presence. Now is an ideal time to be giving wildlife a home in 'your patch' and you don't need a garden to do this either – I've even seen washing-up bowl ponds on balconies. Every Saturday we are introducing you to a little bit of habitat you can create in your own 'nature reserve' on our Facebook page [RSPBPaghamHarbour](https://www.facebook.com/RSPBPaghamHarbour)



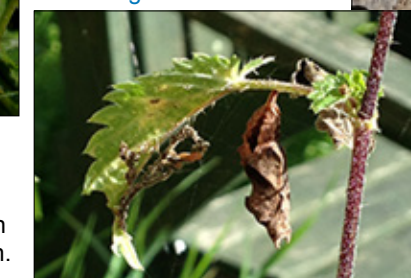
*Tadpoles*



*Red Mason Bee*



*Red Mason Bee*



*Comma chrysalis on nettle*  
c Roy Newnham



*Comma caterpillar on nettle*  
c Roy Newnham

Every weekday we also have a different online event you can join in from Monday's Book Club to Friday's Photography Club, plus other articles and you can share your #BreakfastBirdwatch sightings on our Twitter account [@RSPBPagham](https://twitter.com/RSPBPagham)

We may be restricted but there are still lots of opportunities to marvel at the natural world around us.

*Wood anemone*



**Let's give nature a home**