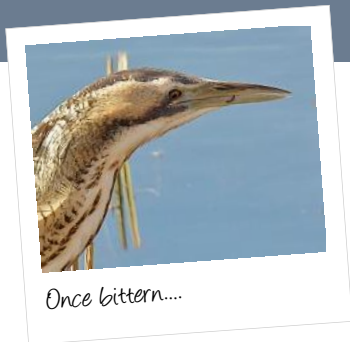


the dabchick

www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

e-newsletter

December 2011



Once bittern....

A big thank you!

Huge thanks to our members who live near our Swettenham and Marbury nature reserves for their generous donations for our appeal to improve access to these fascinating reserves. With bitterns at Marbury and summer skies full of butterflies at Swettenham, we felt it was time to improve access for everyone. With a kick-start from the WREN Biodiversity Action Fund and Barclays, and now a boost from our members we're well on the way with more than 350 metres of boardwalks!

If you'd like to donate to this appeal please call us on **01948 820728** for a donation form and FREEPOST envelope or visit our [website](#).

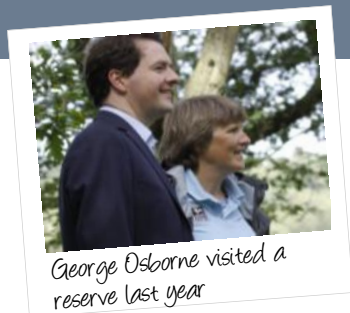


Give a better gift this Christmas

We all know that chocolates will only last until the Queen's speech and socks might just make it through the year, so why not give a Christmas gift that could last a lifetime?

Gift Membership of Cheshire Wildlife Trust or one of our 'Green Gifts' lets someone help support our work for local wildlife across the region for more than just Christmas, and comes with a 'warm fuzzy' better than any pair of slippers—the knowledge that you're making a real difference for nature.

Visit our [website](#) or give us a call today on **01948 820728**.



George Osborne visited a reserve last year

Autumn Statement frustrates

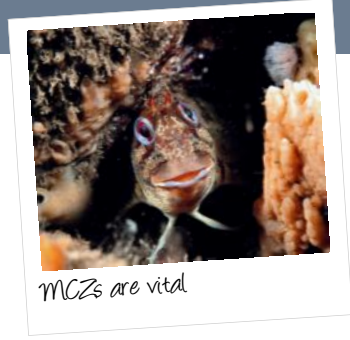
[The Trust has joined other Wildlife Trusts across the UK to express deep concern at the Government's proposals](#) to water-down our highest levels of wildlife protection; the EU Birds & Habitats Directive, as highlighted by George Osborne in his Autumn Statement. The Directives cover both Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), several of which are found in our region including the Dee and Mersey estuaries.



No need for the blues...

Blues brothers at Barrowmore

The Trust's Bluebell Recovery project received its annual boost in November as thousands of bulbs kept safely underground at Barrowmore Estate were dug up ready to be taken to woodlands across Chester and Runcorn. The project aims to bring back the native blue carpet that has been lost from our woods as a result of trampling, illegal digging-up and non-native invasive bluebells. More than 500 bluebell bulbs are transplanted by volunteers on each session, and around 50,000 still remain in safe hands at Barrowmore Estate for the years to come!



MCZs are vital

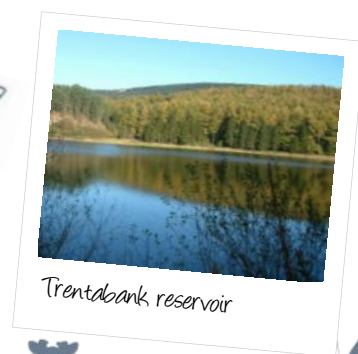
Damaging delays for our MCZs?

[A fantastic opportunity to announce the UK's first Marine Conservation Zone network was washed away in November](#) as Minister Richard Benyon confirmed a further 12 month process of 'data gathering' on the proposed 127 MCZs across the UK. There are 15 MCZs proposed in our region including an area off Hilbre Island in the Dee estuary. The Wildlife Trusts believe that much of the network could now be at risk and may even be reduced in size, drastically weakening the MCZ's ability to act as a coherent ecological resource for all users of our seas and coastlines, despite a £9 million UK consultation.



The Wildlife Trusts bird food partner Vine House Farm recently presented a cheque to our UK head office for almost £140,000. You too can make a difference simply by making a purchase this winter at vinehousefarm.co.uk

Setting a new benchmark - The Trust has installed a grand new seat at one of the finest vistas in our reserve network, Trentabank in Macclesfield Forest. The sustainable, long-lasting 'green oak' bench was kindly donated in memory of Mr Richard Burton by his family, to which we extend our thanks.



Trentabank reservoir

