

Community Action for Nature Webinar Series

**Speaker Biographies**

# **Webinar 1: Community Action for Nature**

**Tuesday 11th October 5:30pm–7:15pm**



**Surrey**  
Wildlife Trust



### **Sue O'Regan**

#### **Adult Learning Officer, Surrey Wildlife Trust**

Born in the United States, Sue earned a degree in Public & Environmental Affairs and worked in Chicago before moving to the UK in 1988. Throughout her working and home life, enhancing community programmes and highlighting conservation issues has been a priority. She published a bi-monthly magazine, within which community events were promoted, neighbourhood businesses reviewed and local heroes spotlighted. She volunteered with a national children's charity and has been the chairperson of her resident's association for the past 14 years. Her dedication to the Blue Heart initiative successfully changed the opinions of most – who now proudly discuss their wild verges and swap photos of pollinators and veg patches on the group What's App page.



### **Tom Butterworth**

#### **Head of Ecology UK, WSP**

Tom is the Head of the UK WSP Ecology Team and the Director overseeing WSP's work on Ecology, Natural Capital, and Biodiversity. Through this role Tom supports a wide range for organisations to meeting their Nature Positive and Biodiversity Net Gain objectives, working with local and national government and city regions as well as infrastructure, housing, and commercial development projects. Tom has over 20 years' experience working for wildlife. Over this time, he has led practical management of SSSIs, developed local, regional, and national biodiversity strategies and policies, led programs of research, and managed the delivery of the Government's biodiversity strategy. Tom now focuses on helping businesses become nature positive.



### **Sarah Jane Chimbwandira**

#### **Chief Executive, Surrey Wildlife Trust**

Sarah Jane has worked for Surrey Wildlife Trust for over 20 years, latterly as Director of Biodiversity, before becoming CEO in February 2019. She has brought a wealth of successful partnerships and projects experience to her role – she was the co-founder, and is the current chair, of the Surrey Nature Partnership, co-authored the 'Natural Capital Investment Plan for Surrey,' is a Board Director of Enterprise M3 and a Trustee of the Surrey Hills Society and Ecosystems Knowledge

Network. She is also a member of the Environment Scrutiny Panel for SES Water, the South East Forest & Woodlands Area Committee and most recently has joined the Board of the Future Homes Hub. Since 2019, SWT's 60th anniversary year, Sarah Jane has refocussed on the core mission of SWT to increase biodiversity and engage people in the natural environment. She is leading SWT's 10 year strategic approach aimed at ensuring 30% of land in Surrey is protected and managed for nature by 2030.

This approach relies on working with landowners and other local partners and organisations to deliver connective hedgerows, rivers, nature reserves and green spaces across Surrey. Sarah Jane regularly undertakes a wide range of media and speaking commitments to share her passion and commitment for nature.



### **Bryony Carter**

#### **Community Organising Manager, The Wildlife Trust**

Bryony started her career as a habitat specialist after graduating with a degree in Wildlife and Ecology, but it was through some volunteering opportunities, she felt social methodology and understanding communities interaction with the natural world was her calling. Bryony moved into specialising in Outdoor Education and embedding nature in the curriculum as well as how we support empowerment of youth audiences. She has been working in community organising methodology for over 12 years, working on projects in rural and towns across Shropshire. She is successful at integrating and delivering projects in communities that are disconnected from nature and successfully managed Access to Nature and habitat restoration with lasting community legacy.



### **Clare Millington**

#### **Treasurer, Rosamund Community Garden**

Clare is an active member and treasurer of the Rosamund community garden. She has been growing food at the garden for 8 years and is working with Halow supporting people with learning difficulties through gardening.



### **Helen Harris**

**Biodiversity lead, Guildford Environmental Forum**

**Committee Chair, Rosamund Community Garden**

Helen is a biologist who worked for 15 years as a sustainability consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers working with clients to develop sustainability strategies, ethical sourcing programmes and industry codes of practice. Currently on career break to spend time with her children, Helen has re-trained as a forest school leader and is enjoying getting involved with local community environmental projects. Helen is currently chair of the committee for Rosamund Community Garden, a nineteen acre no-dig, organic, wildlife friendly garden and downland site on the edge of Guildford. She also runs the Guildford Environmental Forum biodiversity group and supports the development of biodiversity related content and events at Guildford's Zero Carbon Hub.



### **James Sinclair**

**Nature Volunteer, Guildford Environmental Forum**

James is a solicitor, with a particular interest in sustainable finance and pro bono. He is a current MSc Biodiversity student at University of Edinburgh. He is a nature volunteer with Guildford Environmental Forum, Mount Volunteers and Surrey Wildlife Trust.



### **Keith Lightfoot**

**Trustee & v Warden, Unstead Nature Community Group**

Keith has been keen on natural history since childhood with a particular interest in birding for close on 60 years.

Since taking early retirement he has been an active volunteer with SWT, RSPB and Surrey hedge laying group. During this period, he has gained a wide experience in conservation management skills and has been involved in projects such as River Search, River fly surveying and Hedgerow heroes.

More recently Keith has developed a passion for wildlife photography which although sometimes challenging, nearly always frustrating, but which can also occasionally be very rewarding.

Keith has been a key player in setting up Unstead Nature Community Group who are a recently formed group restoring and developing the Unstead Wetland Nature Reserve.