

Community Action for Nature Webinar Series

Speaker Biographies

Webinar 3: Choosing an environmental intervention

Thursday 1st December 5:30pm-7:30pm



Surrey
Wildlife Trust



Christine Howard

**Trustee, Surrey Wildlife Trust,
Vice Chairman of the Surrey
Association of Local Councils.
President of the Surrey Hills
Society**

Chris helped set up Surrey Hills Society fourteen years ago to support Surrey’s Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. She is also Chairman of Visit Surrey, Surrey’s official Tourism Board. She is a serving parish and borough councillor. Previously, she has worked as an officer in local government for both Waverley and Guildford boroughs.

Having grown up on a farm in Australia, she is passionate about rural issues and the environment. In 2019 she helped set up a local environment group in her village, in partnership with Womersley Parish Council and Waverley Borough Council.



Ben Siggery

**GIS, Research and Monitoring
Manager, Surrey Wildlife Trust**

Ben has worked for the Trust for 6 years - now in the Research and Monitoring team, after initially working in the Education team - and

is currently undertaking his PhD at the University of Surrey as part of the Trust’s revolutionary Space4Nature Project. He has a huge enthusiasm for ponds and their inhabitants, after studying MSc Aquatic Conservation, Ecology and Restoration at UCL and many years spent pond dipping with school groups at Nower Wood. Both his BSc and MSc dissertations were focused on farmland pond restoration in Norfolk, the former as part of UCL’s exciting “Ghost Ponds” project. He delivers an aquatic invertebrate’s course for the Trust’s adult learning team each year, and is particularly interested in aquatic beetles.



Stuart Fleming,

**Nature Space Officer, Surrey
Wildlife Trust**

Stuart has been involved with SWT since 2017, having made the move from high street insurance broking, first in various voluntary

roles and now as the senior Nature Space Officer for the East region. He spends the majority of his time working with other staff or leading teams of volunteers carrying out practical conservation management across our reserves, mainly on heathlands, chalk grasslands and freshwater habitats.



Isobel Hall

**Programme Manager, Meadow
Makers, Plantlife**

Isobel has many years of experience as a Programme Manager at Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust where part of her role was to oversee the development and delivery of their ‘haytime’ programme - this encompassed working at both community and landscape scale. Before joining Plantlife earlier this year Isobel worked alongside them for a number of years developing species rich grassland restoration Partnership Projects for funding bids. In January 2021 she came on secondment to Plantlife to deliver an England wide partnership project funded through Green Recovery Challenge Funds – Meadow Makers. With the end of that project in May 2022, Isobel then secured a permanent role at Plantlife as their Programme Manager for Meadow Makers (now the adopted name for Plantlife species rich grassland restoration work).

In previous roles Isobel has delivered a range of community engagement projects and has an understanding that different audiences have different needs and in turn this requires consideration of appropriate delivery models.



Emma Pavans de Ceccatty
**Project Manager - Pesticide-
Free Towns, Pesticide Action
Network UK (PAN UK)**

Emma joined Pesticide Action Network UK in October 2020, with a background in environmental advocacy and communications. She completed the Environment, Culture and Society MSc from the University of Edinburgh, and went on to publish and present papers at international conferences on the effects of chemical cocktails on human health. Emma manages the Pesticide-Free Towns campaign, helping to grow it into a thriving network of hundreds of campaigns across the UK. She is curious about the different ways we can creatively communicate the pressing issue that is pesticide toxicity, and to participate in the movement making our cities greener, wilder spaces for people and wildlife to thrive.