

Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

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Long-term volunteer wins Unsung Hero Award

Lindsay Pyne, one of the Alderney Wildlife Trust's long-term volunteer staff members, has won the Marsh Charitable Trust Unsung Hero Award for 2023.

This is an annual award and is given to one member of staff or volunteer across the 46 Wildlife Trusts throughout the British Isles. The award celebrates individuals who might not have been recognised before but "have led a transformational change in the running of their organisation's operations that have ultimately led to greater impact in our work to bring back nature".

Lindsay joined the Alderney Wildlife Trust at its inception back in 2002 committing her talents to help establish the Trust and shape its development to become one of the most dynamic wildlife charities in the Channel Islands. Over the years, Lindsay has undertaken more work sessions than any other conservation volunteer and each year maintains several miles of countryside path in her spare time just to ensure they stay open to the public.

In the last 20 years Lindsay has supported nearly 80 interns taking part in the Trust's long term internship programme. Supporting them in a quiet but caring way, graduates can now be found working across the world, including the RSWT.

Lindsay comments:

I'm extremely touched and honoured to have received this award and grateful to everyone who nominated me.

I believe you get out of volunteering what you put into it. I have been incredibly supported over my 20+ years with the Alderney Wildlife Trust, both by Roland (Gauvain - CEO AWT) and by our amazing AWT team. I have had some wonderful experiences, and it is very rewarding to feel I have been a meaningful part of the organisation and have given something back to it - and via it I hope to the wider community also.

In celebrating my award I'd like to acknowledge the whole AWT team, staff, placements and volunteers, past and present, as there are many other unsung heroes among them.

Aside from supporting the internship programme, Lindsay is involved in many aspects of the Alderney Wildlife Trust's day-to-day running, both in the office (including membership, treasury and in the Wildlife Information Centre), and out in the field to assist the Wildlife Volunteers. She is also involved in terrestrial survey work, primarily for flora (Lindsay's a very keen botanist) and for the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.

Roland Gauvain, CEO, Alderney Wildlife Trust:

Lindsay is the very definition of the Unsung Heroes at the heart of every charitable organisation. Having stopped to offer just a few hours volunteering to help open the 'Wildlife Bunker' 21 years ago, today she is at the heart of the Alderney Wildlife Trust team, supporting its board, staff and volunteers in countless ways. Just as every other unsung hero Lindsay would never have asked to be nominated yet she was recognised because of her selfless dedication to Alderney, from the tens of thousands of staff and volunteers across the British Wildlife Trusts. All of us here at the AWT are so thrilled for her.

Ends

Background

About the Alderney Wildlife Trust

The Alderney Wildlife Trust is one of the 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the British Isles. We are the youngest of the Wildlife Trust, forming 20 years ago and since then the AWT has received incredible support from a dedicated team of wildlife enthusiasts, what we like to think of as the 'TeamWilder'. This team isn't just limited to residents and AWT members, it includes people from all walks of life who have an interest in our island's wildlife, as well as supporters and organizations from around the world. We work with the local community to engage them with their natural environment in order to protect Alderney's wildlife for the future.

Our mission is to study, protect and champion Alderney's wildlife. We wish to see a thriving natural island where wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing our island's future and the climate and ecological emergencies that face us.

Alderney is a very special place and by helping the work of the Alderney Wildlife Trust you can make a difference. After all, if you love where you live, you'll want to look after it - Dr. George McGavin, Patron AWT

Notes to Media

For further information, please contact:

Paul Belben

communications@alderneywildlife.org