

INSIDE: Constellations, green roofs and wildlife filmmaking...

Issue 79 Autumn 2016

# wildlife watch

MAGAZINE



## WILD CITY LIFE



**FEELING  
'BATTY'?**

What do  
you know  
about our  
Stars of  
the Night?

**CRITTERS LIVING IT UP IN  
THE CONCRETE JUNGLE**

**FREE**  
LEAPING FROG POSTER!





Andy Jackson (cameraman) and Jackie Daly (writer) are SubSeaTV, an award-winning wildlife filmmaking team. They love inspiring others to discover the UK's underwater world. Find out more about Andy and Jackie at [subseatv.com](http://subseatv.com).

Pic: © Andy Jackson

# THE JOY OF WILDLIFE

by JACKIE DALY

Pic: © Steve Trewkella / UK Coastal Wildlife

Pic: © Andy Jackson

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Pic: © Andy Jackson

Pic: © Andy Jackson

Pic: © Andy Jackson

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

24A





Pic: © Gary W. Heston / 2020VISION



Pic: © Alex M. Heston / 2020VISION

## WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN WILDLIFE FILM?

We've got a fantastic competition for you! Check out the back page of the magazine for all the details.

# LIFE FILMMAKING

**I**'ll never forget my dance with a grey seal. I was diving at the Farnes, in north-east England. We'd seen seals from the boat but I was losing hope we'd meet one underwater. Then, on our last dive, a shadow appeared in the distance. We dropped to our knees on the seabed and waited. She came closer. Checked us out. Was she going to swim away? I stretched my arms wide as if to say, "Welcome, friend." She swam towards me and stood on her tail, facing me – just the length of my arm away. She held her fins out, like my outstretched arms. So I swayed to one side, then the other. She followed me. Back and forward. My heart pounded with joy as I danced with a seal in the wild.

Andy and I love making wildlife films because we can share magical moments like this – so others can experience them too. Anyone can make a wildlife film. All you need is a camera or phone that shoots video, curiosity, and the patience to watch, wait, film – and then wait some more. Want to share your own special moment? Learn how to make a wildlife film below and enter our competition on the back page!

### Find your subject

First, pick a subject you're curious about – maybe an animal or place you love. There's no need to go far. Great wildlife films have been made in back gardens. Choose something local and easy to film then try to discover something most people don't know. If you've chosen an animal, what does it do? If it's a place, which animals live there?

### IMPORTANT TIPS

Stay safe while you're making your film. Show your parents or guardians this article and get permission to go where you want to film.

If you don't have your own camera or phone, ask before borrowing one.

Take a packed lunch and drink.

If it's a hot day, take sunscreen. If it's a cold day, wrap up warm and take extra clothes in case it gets cold or wet.

Always take care near water.

Have fun!

### Let's get filming

First things first, go out and film some footage. It doesn't have to be perfect. Have fun and explore through your lens!

Watch your "rushes" (the footage you've just filmed) when you get home. What have you discovered? Do some research: find answers, ask new questions and keep following the clues. Go out and film again, maybe at different times of day or from different angles.

Now, you'll be close to discovering the heart of your story. What excites you most about what you've filmed? Which magical moments do you want to share with others? It's time to put your story together.

All stories have a beginning, middle, and end. Let's take my seal dance as an example.



Pic: © Andy Heston / 2020VISION

In the beginning, we wanted to meet a seal underwater but were losing hope. In the middle, a seal appeared, but would she stay or swim away? At the end, not only did the seal stay, she danced with us too.

See if you can find a beginning, middle, and end to your wildlife film. Once you've decided what your story is, it's time to think about how you'll tell it.

If you want to tell your story with a voice over, you'll need to write a script. If you're not going to talk in your film, you could draw your story in pictures – like a comic. This is called a storyboard.

### Time to edit

After you've wrapped (the end of filming), it's time to edit your best footage into a short film on a computer. There are lots of free edit packages available – try searching on the internet. Windows Movie Maker is a good one to try. If it's the first time you've done this, ask for help and watch some tutorials online. They'll show you step-by-step how to edit your film, record your voice over as a sound file, or add music.

### Get feedback

Ask two or three trusted people what they think of your film. It's ok to disagree with what they say, but do listen carefully and consider any final changes you want to make. Often other people can see mistakes in our films more easily than we can.

Now, send a copy to our competition (see the back page!) and organise your *Première*! Invite friends and family, make plenty of popcorn, and screen your film. This is a great achievement, so be sure to celebrate. Hopefully, by watching your wildlife film, your friends and family will feel some of the magic you experienced while you were making it.

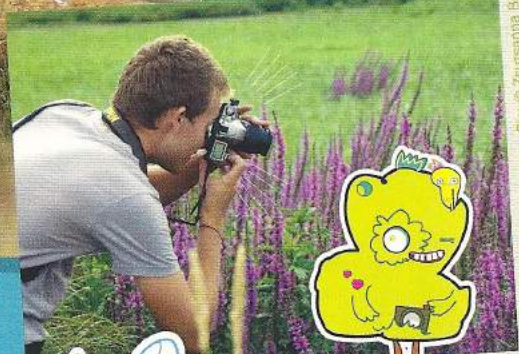
**GOOD LUCK!**

Have fun making your films. We can't wait to see them.



# COMPETITION

Pic: © Peter Calins / 2020V15



Pic: © Zausanna Bird

**W**e're running an exciting competition with SubSeaTV! They've told you how to make a wildlife film (pages 20-21), now we want YOU to give it a go.

Make your own wildlife film, making sure it lasts at least 10 seconds but no longer than two minutes. The winning film will be chosen based on story and technical filmmaking. You don't need to have a professional camera to do this - a smartphone will work just as well! We're more interested in great stories and ideas than perfect equipment.



## FILMMAKING HINTS AND TIPS:



Make sure you have enough light on your subject. Try to film with the sun behind you. The best light is in the morning or evening, and cloudy days can be better than bright sunlight.

Film a variety of shots: long shots (from a distance), medium shots, and close ups. Shoot from different angles. Keep your subject in focus - auto-focus is a great setting to start with. Keep your camera steady. If you don't have a tripod, try resting the camera on a small beanbag or against your cheek.

Think about composition (everything in your frame). Would it be more interesting zoomed in or out, a little to the left, right, up, or down?

When you edit, think about how you move between shots (transition); your editing software will have a few options. Try some then pick your favourite. If you use music, you need to get permission. Try [mobygratis.com](http://mobygratis.com), which gives free music to non-profit filmmakers. You could even make your own music!

## ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME PRIZE!

For the winning filmmaker, Jessops are offering a free Olympus Tough TG4 digital camera (RRP £264) and a photography workshop for your whole class worth £700! Not only that, you'll receive two Skype coaching sessions with SubSeaTV. You can use these sessions for feedback about your winning film to help make it even better, or to create your next wildlife film. One runner up will receive a £50 Jessops voucher and active socks from Bamboo Clothing.

Buy online: [wtru.st/jessops-camera](http://wtru.st/jessops-camera)



Want more tips on how to take great photographs and video? Check out our online blog by Rachel from Jessops at [wtru.st/jessops-tips](http://wtru.st/jessops-tips)

**JESSOPS**  
image is everything

**BAM**  
[bambooclothing.co.uk](http://bambooclothing.co.uk)

## HOW TO SEND IN YOUR FILM

Put your film on a memory stick or disk and post to Wildlife Watch, The Kiln, Mather Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1WT. Alternatively upload your film to YouTube and email the link to [watchcomps@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:watchcomps@wildlifetrusts.org). Don't forget to include your name, age and address with your entry! **DEADLINE: 30 November 2016**

Entered a competition and wondered if you've won? Find out here: [wtru.st/watch-comps](http://wtru.st/watch-comps)