

**January 2025:**

What a real treat to be able to witness the incredible acrobatics of starlings here on our doorstep. These birds are on the red list, so an endangered species, but you wouldn't know it as thousands gather at the end of the day before funnelling down to roost as the light fades from the sky. A minor miracle, the murmuration (*below*) remains a little-understood spectacle; hopefully one that continues to be visible here in Walberswick well into the New Year. January and February will see plenty of winter maintenance work on the Common as access is improved and the contractors undertake annual developmental and maintenance work to maintain this special habitat. Removing gorse, bracken and birch is the backbone of this work, with a view to opening up the landscape to heather and grass and other flora to create a mosaic of vegetation by type and age to maximise its attractiveness to invertebrates and birds. The reedbed over by the windpump is also being harvested to give some more open habitat space - variety being the key. Work is also underway to maintain and replace the picket fencing protecting the marram grass and dunes alongside the beach huts and coastal path. Please help us to keep these in good order - wild and natural.



*Photo: Vanessa Tucker*