

Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile Newsletter

Issue No 28.

April 2019 This newsletter is produced for members of the Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group and other interested persons on an occasional basis and includes news items, advice and information and results from toad crossing patrols. If you have any items that you wish to be included in future editions please e-mail them to the Group

DARG EVENTS FOR 2019

**Great Crested Newt Ecology and
Surveying Training Course.
Saturday 4th / Sunday 5th May 2019
Hilton, South Derbyshire**



This course is suitable for those wishing to obtain a Natural England Great Crested Newt Class Surveying license & need to learn about the species and survey methods. They will need to arrange & undertake further practical surveying after the course so that they can demonstrate their skills to referees who will be required on the license application.

It is also open for people who just have a general interest in the species.

It will have an indoor session on the Saturday from 10.45am to 3.00pm followed by a site visit to undertake survey methods finishing around 5pm. Later there will be an evening torchlight survey session from 9.15pm to 11.15pm with a short Sunday morning session to check and remove bottle traps.

There will be a small charge of £5 for members and £30 for non-members for this event to cover the costs.

If you are interested in attending then book a place. Email: derbyshirearg@gmail.com

See next page for details of great crested newt surveys and how to take part.

DERBYSHIRE AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE GROUP

We are an affiliated member of



ARG UK

**Amphibian and Reptile
Groups of the UK**

Volunteers working for the
conservation of amphibians & reptiles

www.arguk.org

Registered charity
(number 1165504)

Derbyshire ARG

Chair - Kelvin Lawrence

Vice Chair - Christian Murray-Leslie

Secretary - Chris Monk

Treasurer - Jayne Thompson

Committee Members -

Richard Fenn Griffin, Lisa Lawrence, James Longley, Emily Major & Trevor Taylor

Contact details

Group e-mail

derbyshirearg@gmail.com

Group website

<http://groups.arguk.org/DARG/>

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DARG ACTIVITIES 2019 (continued)

AMPHIBIAN SURVEYS Throughout May 2019 & early June

A series of field survey visits, particularly for great crested newts but also recording all amphibians, are planned for May at ponds in the White Peak area of the Peak District National Park and possibly other locations across Derbyshire. These will be mainly evening torchlight newt surveys and possibly bottle trapping or eDNA sampling at some sites.



A newly restored farm dewpond where we will be monitoring amphibian colonisation.

The survey on Tuesday 14th May is fully booked but to put your name down to be notified of other dates and locations please email us at derbyshirearg@gmail.com

REPTILE SURVEYS



Summer 2019

We are planning to undertake reptile surveys using cover objects at a monitoring site in the Peak District and at another planned site in the south of Derbyshire near Ticknall once the cover objects have been moved there and laid out.

Dates for these will be announced later and placed on our website.

HARDWICK HALL BIOBLITZ

**Saturday 29th June
10.00am to 4.00pm**

We will be helping with the National Trust's Bioblitz on the Hardwick Hall Estate. As well as running our display stand on native amphibians and reptiles in the Stable Yard next to the Hall, we are planning to set up a reptile survey in the grounds to determine what species are present. Grass snakes are known from the Park.

Volunteers will be needed to put the cover objects out a couple of weeks previously and to go round them on the day to record what is found. In addition we hope to do some pond netting to look for amphibian tadpoles. Please sign up at derbyshirearg@gmail.com

DERBYSHIRE WOODLAND FESTIVAL ELVASTON CASTLE COUNTRY PARK

**Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd
September 2019
10.00am to 5.00pm**

We will again be attending this very busy festival run by the Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service. We will have our display stand on native amphibians and reptiles, providing themed children's activities and asking members of the public for their sightings. Please come along and help us on the day.

Admission is free but car park charges apply

DERBYSHIRE TOADS ON ROADS PATROLS FOR 2018 - FINAL RESULTS

The figures missing from Hilton and Chapel from the table in the last newsletter have now been added to the table of results.

Bowden at Chapel on le Frith rescued 1,038 toads and had 31 casualties over the period whilst 38 frogs were also moved.

At Hilton 560 adult toads were rescued and 56 were killed on the road over the 25 nights of patrolling. In addition 2 frogs, 26 smooth newts and 11 great crested newts and 3 juvenile toads were rescued off the road. A further one frog, 6 smooth newts, 4 great crested newts and one juvenile toad were killed on the road.

In total for spring 2018 the toad patrols rescued 13,294 toads but reported 688 killed on the roads. This was the highest number of toads rescued since 1998.

Thanks are due to all members and volunteers who gave up their time to save the toads.



ARG UK NEWS

NATIONAL MEETING

VANISHING VIPER 2019

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June

Location: Bangor University, Brambell,
Deiniol Road, Bangor, LL57 2UP.

The third national UK adder conservation meeting organised by ARG UK & Bangor University Herpetological Society will also have an European perspective on the species with case studies from France, Belgium, Scandinavia, Holland and Germany.

Bookings now open via ARG UK website
<https://www.arguk.org/get-involved/events>

Includes extras such as field trips on Sunday afternoon to some North Wales Wildlife Trust nature reserves that support adders.

ADDERS ARE AMAZING

This project being run in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park has been very successful in engaging the schools and local community, with the aim of changing public perception of the adder. It has also trialled predictive mapping to identify likely adder hotspots for habitat and hibernation sites as well as recruiting local volunteers to undertake surveys in the area.

Currently an exhibition of adder themed artwork done by local craft groups and artists, will be running for the first 2 weeks of April in the National Park's Oriel y Parc Gallery and Visitor Centre in St Davids.

Although the project ends in June it has produced ideas on how to change the public's view of the adder and reduce persecution which is still a problem in many areas. Look out for adder stones appearing in Derbyshire and possibly Gwiber, the 8 metre long crafted adder lantern may come here.