

Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile Newsletter

Issue No 28. **January 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 Secretary (address below)

DARG EVENTS FOR 2019

POND MANAGEMENT
Saturday 19th January 2019
10.00am to 2.00pm.

Volunteer to help us with the clearance of some of the vegetation from a large dewpond at a farm near the High Peak Trail. The farm is located on the edge of the Peak Park near Longcliffe, Brassington (postcode DE4 4HP) just off the B5056 Ashbourne road.

Tools will be provided courtesy of Derby City Pond Wardens Association but please bring your own wellies, gloves and suitable clothing for the task, which will run from 10.00am to finish by 2.00pm.

The farmyard dewpond was last cleaned out by us in 2011 (photo below) and David & Felicity have asked us to repeat this as a floating mat of Typha has spread across the pond and needs to be broken up & pulled out. The dewpond is home to great crested newts and other amphibians with GCN records dating back over 30 years.



Please contact the Group on derbyshirearg@gmail.com to receive details of where to meet on site or to see if a lift is available.

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 - Christian Murray-Leslie

Vice Chair - Kelvin Lawrence

Secretary - Chris Monk

Treasurer - Jayne Thompson

Committee Members -

Richard Fenn Griffin, Lisa Lawrence, Matt Liston, James Longley & Trevor Taylor

Contact details

Group e-mail

derbyshirearg@gmail.com

Group website

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

Follow us on Twitter



<https://twitter.com/DerbysARG>

Or on our Facebook page



facebook.com/DerbyshireARG/

DARG ACTIVITIES in March & April

SPRING MEETING & AGM

Saturday 2nd March 2019
2.00pm to 4.30pm.

Location: Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's HQ
Sandy Hill, Main Street, Middleton by Wirksworth, DE4 4LRT.

Free car parking, tea & coffee provided.

Further details of talks & speakers for the meeting still to be arranged and publicised

Toads on Roads

Help at one of the approximately 20 crossing sites across Derbyshire. Contact us to be put in touch with the local co-ordinators at the crossings which range from New Mills in the north to Overseal in the south.



Adder emergence surveys in the Peak District National Park.

Please contact us if you would like to join our band of volunteers, carrying out annual surveys of known sites and investigating reported sightings. A survey field trip for Group members only is planned for **Saturday 23rd March** please contact the Group on derbyshirearg@gmail.com to book a place.

Other planned surveys

Great crested newt field survey visits are planned for April and May at locations in the White Peak and possibly other locations across Derbyshire. These will be mainly evening torchlight newt surveys and possibly bottle trapping at some sites.

Reptile surveys will also be undertaken at a monitoring site in the Peak District and at

another planned site in the south of Derbyshire near Ticknall.

DARG TRAINING COURSES

A decision on whether to run our popular Great Crested Newt Training Course will be taken at the Group's next committee meeting

Dates for all these will be announced later and placed on our website and social media. Alternatively contact us by email on derbyshirearg@gmail.com

NATIONAL MEETINGS

HERPETOFAUNA WORKERS' MEETING 2019

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th February

Location: Best Western Plus Moat House Hotel, Etruria Hall, Festival Way, Stoke on Trent ST1 5BQ.

A full & varied programme of presentations, workshops and question&answer sessions. Free car parking, lunch, tea & coffee provided in the delegate rates.

Book a place for one or both days via <https://www.arc-trust.org/Event/hwm2019>

Bookings close on 11th January

VANISHING VIPER MEETING 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, Holland & Germany.

Bookings now open via ARG UK website <https://www.arguk.org/get-involved/events> Includes field trips on Sunday afternoon to some North Wales Wildlife Trust nature reserves that support adders.

Derbyshire Toads on Roads crossing results for 2018

Site Name	Toads Rescued	Toads dead on road	No of nights covered	Dates covered	Other amphibians	Other comments
BRETBY Repton Shrubs	943	16	28	25.3.18 to 19.4.18	17 frogs	
BUXWORTH BASIN	646	49	38	7.3.18 to 20.4.18	1 frogs, 1 palmate newt rescued	
CHURCH WILNE Wilne Road	255	27	25	10.3.18 to 16.4.18		Road was flooded for more than one night twice during the season
CRICH, Dimple Road						Toad warning highway signs only
FOREMARK	550	30	29	10.3.18 to 15.4.18	6 frogs rescued	
FURNESS VALE	341	11	17	16.3.18 to 15.4.18	7 frogs, 1 palmate & 1 smooth newt rescued	
GOYT VALLEY Goyts Lane pond	1500					New site 2018, estimated figure for toads rescued, dead toads not counted.
GRANGEMILL	1021	164	22	10.3.18 to 18.4.18	33 smooth newts & 7 frogs rescued, 11 SN dead on road	
LITTLE HAYFIELD						Toad warning highway signs only
MONYASH, Fere Mere	3300	119	25	10.3.18 to 23.4.18	9 frogs, 26 smooth newts & 9 GCN rescued, 1 SN & 1 GCN dead on road	
OVERSEAL Shortheath	120					Other details not available
RADBOURNE	903	66	34	11.3.18 to 16.4.18	1 GCN & 1 smooth newt	
SOUTH WINGFIELD Taylor's Mill						Toad warning highway signs only
STUBBING COURT	455	38	17	11.3.18 to 19.4.18	4 GCN, 13 smooth newts & 1 frog rescued, 1 GCN & 1 SN dead on road	
WATFORD LODGE, New Mills						No amphibians found this year on nights that site was visited
WHALEY BRIDGE CPA pond	250	2		24.3.18 to 17.4.18	1 frog & 2 newts rescued 2 newts dead	
WINGERWORTH	1412	76	21	11.3.18 to 19.4.18	6 frogs & 22 smooth newts rescued, 2 frogs & 6 SN dead on road	
TOTALS for 2018	11696	598				
<i>2017 Totals</i>	<i>10547</i>	<i>921</i>				Additional toad crossings were patrolled at Chapel en le Frith, Combs Reservoir, & Hilton during the season but unfortunately figures are not to hand.