

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Watch Groups' Report for

March 2010 to February 2011



- A new group started at Fleet, bringing the total to eleven Wildlife Watch groups, each meeting at least once a month.
- An activity box was given to the new Fleet group.
- 8 groups had 'Support Visits' to check that all is well and policies and procedures adhered to.
- Three of the groups entered the Wildlife Watch Group of the Year competition. The regional element has gone so this is now a national award. Blashford Lakes was awarded 3rd place, Swanwick was Highly Commended and Southampton Commended.
- The Blashford group also entered the Ringwood carnival and won the best Walking entry with a theme of endangered marine life.
- The Havant and Portsmouth group has developed a partnership with Staunton Country Park, giving them a base with indoor facilities when they need them.
- The Southampton group have relocated to the Hawthorns urban Wildlife Centre on Southampton Common.
- A thousand children have attended Wildlife Watch group events in 2010.
- 4 of our Wildlife Watch members achieved their Gold Award. One received his award from Chris Packham in May. We arranged for two to have theirs presented by Chris Packham in November at the Trusts 50th birthday launch. The fourth child could not attend in November, so we are hoping to make arrangements with Chris Packham for a date this summer. This is a significant number at national level so Hampshire and IOW has much to be proud of and it is a credit to the Wildlife Watch volunteer leaders.
- We have said farewell to several leaders who were moving away or changing jobs. Some have taken a step back to become support helpers rather than leaders. We also recruited 4 additional leaders and 2 registered helpers, bringing our current total to 25 registered leaders.
- All leaders have Trust Volunteer clothing to help identify them during Wildlife Watch activities.



- We sent out newsletters to 5000 members in March, June, September and December. These are also distributed to leaders and our education centres.
- 8 leaders, helpers and potential leaders attended a training day in September on trapping and identifying small mammals, followed by games and discussion on administration tasks and child protection.
- 5 leaders have completed a distance learning package on Child Protection.
- 2 leaders attended a training course on natural plant dyeing and one on living willow structures
- 8 leaders have undertaken First Aid training during the year. Several more will be renewing their certificates in the next few months.
- The Fleet, Basingstoke and Four Marks members are taking part in a Great Nut Hunt in Pamber Forest at the end of February 2011 as part of a major dormouse survey.
- We are organising a Wildlife Watch Family Day on Sat 16 July at Testwood Lakes. This is to celebrate 40 years of Wildlife Watch and 50 years of Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust. The event will be run by Watch leaders and helpers. We are expecting several groups to attend and the general public. Families or a representative from Vitacress CT would be very welcome to attend.

