

DAILY ECHO - FRIDAY, 1 FEBRUARY



## Vitacress boxing clever to help wildlife watch groups

YOUNG wildlife enthusiasts are now better equipped to create a greener planet after receiving donations of first aid kits, rucksacks, dipping nets, trays, lenses and identification leaflets.

The Vitacress Conservation Trust (VCT) presented the activity boxes to members of the Hampshire and Wildlife Trust's wildlife watch groups.

It is the first of a number of planned donations by Vitacress to help provide new activity boxes for each Hampshire

wildlife watch group, as well as regular newsletters and training programmes.

Southampton University Professor Gail Taylor, chairwoman of the VCT, handed over the items to the youngsters at Testwood Lakes in Totton.

There are currently eight wildlife watch groups with more than 4,000 members across the county.

The VCT, a registered charity, was established in 2006 to research, conserve and enhance the wildlife and

habitats associated with watercress and salad crop farming.

Dr Steve Rothwell, of the VCT, explained: "We are committed to helping the younger generation to appreciate the complexities of sustainable food production and biodiversity."

Prof Taylor is pictured, far left, with members and volunteers of the wildlife watch groups at the presentation of the activity boxes at Testwood Lakes reserve in Totton.