



# Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team

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Affiliated to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (Registered Charity Number 209200)  
and Herpetofauna Groups of Britain & Ireland.

[www.wartsoc.co.uk](http://www.wartsoc.co.uk)

## WART NEWSLETTER: ISSUE NO. 33 SUMMER 2003

*Forthcoming event*

### **Baddersley Common lizards**

A WART visit to Baddersley Common, near Atherstone, is planned for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Common lizards have been recorded at this relic heathland site in the north of the county. This is an opportunity to look for hatchlings as well as adults. Places are limited so please register your interest ASAP by ringing or e-mailing Jan.

### **Frogalogue**

The 2003 edition of Frogalogue is enclosed with this newsletter. This lists all the resources available from Froglife. On joining members receive some of these resources in their starter's pack and we also send out with the newsletter any new ones. The Frogalogue offers resources that we are not able to provide such as posters and pond equipment.

Jan Clemons

### **Contacts**

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# Membership Survey Results

With the last issue of the Newsletter was enclosed a membership survey form. This gave members the opportunity to express their views and wishes.

41% of the members responded to this survey, which is good in itself (thank you).

- 1. Would you be interested in a programme of talks/slide shows?**
- 2. Preferable venue for talks.**

These 2 questions returned a result of 16%, and a very mixed bag for venues.

- 3. Are you interested in any of the subjects listed below for a theme for a talk/slide show.**

This question returned a result of 22%,

- 4. Are you aware of working parties at Trust reserves throughout the year?**

This question returned a result of 21%.

- 5. Are you interested in getting involved with monitoring/recording?**

This question returned a result of 15%.

- 6. Would you be interested in receiving the Newsletter/other correspondence via email?**

What was nice to see, was that 18% of the membership would prefer to receive the Newsletter via email, save's paper/printing and postage.

- 7. Would you mind if we contacted you about this survey?**

This question returned a result of 7%.

Once again thank you all the members that responded to this survey.

Nigel Clemons  
July 2003

# WART's 10th birthday: trip to Cannock Chase

Sunday 27 April

A dozen WART members managed to make the celebration which started with an afternoon visit to the natterjack site in the Chase. The Cannock warden met us on site with Paul Wilkinson from the Staffordshire Amphibian and Reptile Group to state they had yet to find any natterjacks! Undeterred we were rewarded with finding hundreds of great-crested, smooth and palmate newts. This provided an excellent opportunity to hone our skills in newt identification. After 10 years of visiting the site this was the first time palmates had been recorded and Paul suspected some had been released there fairly recently. The site was always good for great-crested newts but this time the palmates outnumbered them. Obviously they have a competitive edge at this site. Frogs and common toads were also found but alas no natterjacks.

The WART party then retired to a local hostelry to enjoy a meal before returning to the site as it was getting dark. No natterjacks were calling so we surveyed the ponds and only found common toad tadpoles and palmate newts. What has happened to the natterjacks? Why have they failed to breed? Have the large numbers of other amphibians anything to do with this? At the time of writing we are waiting to hear from the Herpetological Conservation Trust as they have put a lot of specialist conservation work into this site and need to know the situation.

Despite the lack of natterjacks, the sheer numbers of other amphibians made up for this. As the palmate newt is not recorded in Warwickshire, seeing all newt species in one place was a real treat.

Jan Clemons

## The WART Committee

Chair	Jan Clemons
Vice-Chair	Andrew Thompson
Secretary	Andi Wolf
Membership Secretary	Nigel Clemons
Treasurer	Howard Eccles
Newsletter Editor	Helen Newell
Ordinary members	Jane O'Dell, Serena Eccles, David Cole

Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to Helen Newell.  
Copy deadline for next issue: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003.