

# 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. 34 AUTUMN 2003

*Forthcoming events*

### **Kenilworth Common**

Don't forget, if you have some time to spare on Sundays and would like to help manage habitats for wildlife, there are regular management sessions on the last Sunday of each month. Contact Howard and Serena Eccles for details.



### **British Herpetological Society Scientific Symposium** **Ecology and Conservation of British Snakes** **29 November 2003**

Snakes in Britain are often persecuted, as well as being threatened by development of their habitats. In recent years, new technologies and field techniques have enabled new insights to be gained into their cryptic life cycles.

This symposium will review how far we have come in this direction and show how research can be used to address fundamental conservation issues.

The programme will include contributions from snake experts from Britain and Europe, including Chris Reading, Tony Phelps, Chris Glead-Owen and Luca Luiselli.

Further information from Dr Richard Griffiths, DICE, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NS. E-mail: [R.A.Griffiths@ukc.ac.uk](mailto:R.A.Griffiths@ukc.ac.uk)

# **Annual General Meeting**

**7.30 pm**

**Wednesday 21 January 2004**

**Brandon Marsh Nature Centre**

Have your say on all things WARTy and meet (or join) the committee.

## **Baddersley Common lizards**

A WART visit to Baddersley Common, near Atherstone, was postponed due to lack of interest, however a visit is intended to take place next year. Common lizards have been recorded at this relic heathland site in the north of the county. Contact Jan for details.

## **Reptiles in your garden**

With this newsletter should be included a leaflet, "Reptiles in your garden". (If you don't see any reptiles in your garden, don't worry, you're not alone!)

## **Newts by e-mail**

If you would like the WART newsletter to be e-mailed to you rather than posted, please contact Jan and Nigel. This saves WART postage (and avoids postal strike problems!).

## **Minutes of Meetings**

Minutes of committee meetings are available to members on request, from committee members.

## **Thanks to Sussex Amphibian and Reptile Group...**

...for their congratulations (in their "Newsletter") on WART reaching its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Both Sussex and Surrey ARGs are 15 this year. Let's hope we can all keep going a lot longer!

## **The WART Committee**

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Membership Secretary

Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

Ordinary members

Jan Clemons

Andrew Thompson

Andi Wolf

Nigel Clemons

Howard Eccles

Helen Newell

Jane O'Dell, Serena Eccles, David Cole

# Internet Ramblings

## The electronic Virus

If you're connected to the Internet you will be attacked at some stage, and I hope you backup your valuable documents. You should have a good firewall and virus checking software/hardware to help you. If not, why not, as there are some good products out there.

1. Never open the email, as this will infect your computer. Delete it.
2. Don't email other Internet users about the email, as this causes unwanted Internet traffic, and they more than likely already know about the virus.
3. Keep your virus checking software up to date.
4. A lot of viruses are attached code pretending they are pictures etc.



## Spam

These come in various forms, a popular one is from a Bank asking you for your details, so they can deposit £20,000,000,000,000 and give you a percentage for your trouble. I leave you to decide what to do with this kind of email. Anti-spam software still has a long way to go on this one.

## The Popup Message

A new trick nasty people are using now, is Microsoft's MSN messenger. This will display a popup box on your screen asking you to do something, which is not in your best interests. These can be blocked in the registry by setting a flag to disable.

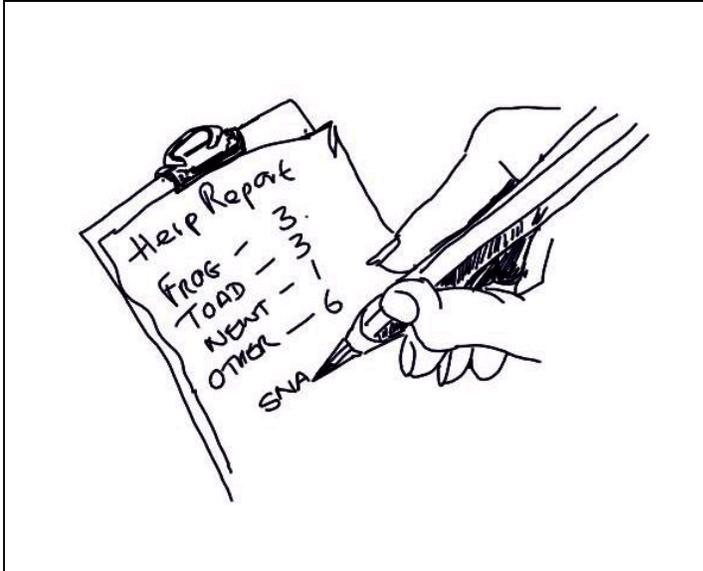
**Remember: Don't panic.**

Nigel Clemons  
22 September 2003

# Records

No, not the sort with Frank Sinatra or the Beatles on, but the ones that various organisations are waiting for, so that they can build up distribution maps for species (including beetles but not of the McCartney variety).

The distribution maps often shown in field guides come from records from people like you, so an accurate picture can only be gained if enough people send in their observations. It is a known fact that these maps often reflect the number (and keenness) of people recording, rather than necessarily giving a complete range of the species. Hence nature reserves and populated areas are often well documented, but, for example, a remote privately-owned patch of ground may house unknown plants and animals.



And don't assume that just because the map in the book makes the species appear common, that your record won't be welcome. I've sent in 2 butterfly records somewhat hesitantly, thinking someone must have already seen them, to be told they hadn't been recorded there before.

The vital components of a record are what species, where (preferably with a map reference), when and how many (if more than one). A GPS device is very useful for giving map references while on a walk.

So, if you go on a country walk and see a Purple Emperor butterfly, a Hoopoe (a bird, in case you're wondering), a Stag Beetle and a Smooth Snake, then send in your records (assuming you can stop jumping for joy for long enough, after seeing so many rarities!)

Records can be sent to the relevant conservation group (e.g. Butterfly Conservation for butterflies and moths), or Warwick Museum, or contact WART for more information.

Helen Mayne

## Contacts

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Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to Helen Newell.  
Copy deadline for next issue: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003.