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In short...

White Christmas?



This footage was captured near one of our environmental monitoring sites this month. It shows beautifully how the mountain hare's coat colour is changing for winter, even if there isn't any snow! This one is surely dreaming of a white Christmas...

Stormy Weather



Back in November, Storm Angus battered much of the UK. Our monitoring sites were no exception; and volunteer-collected rainfall and water table data showed the impact of this weather event.

Read [this blog post](#) to see what happened....

Monitoring the Roaches



This year the project set up a new monitoring site - our furthest south so far.

Located in The Roaches - in the south west corner of the Peak District - this area of bog is managed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. It has plenty of *Sphagnum* moss present - as our volunteers found when they carried out an initial survey of the site's plant life.

Monitoring equipment has been installed and monthly visits by volunteers are now taking place.

Volunteer Awards Shortlist



We are delighted to announce that Community Science has been shortlisted for this year's UK National Park Volunteer Awards in the 'project' category.

[Visit the National Parks website](#) to find out more about the awards and the other shortlisted nominees.

National Parks UK Director Kathryn Cook said "Volunteers are the lifeblood of our National Parks... The annual Volunteer Awards were set up to recognise the hard work of those who have gone above and beyond..."

Fingers crossed!

A Look Back

2016

This year Community Scientists have given over 5000 hours of their time to helping monitor the long term health of moorland and blanket bogs.

Miles and miles of survey routes have been walked and thousands of bumblebees recorded - along with over 800 hares and rabbits, nearly 700 ring ouzels and redwings and 500 curlews. A great effort!

Species of the Month



This edition features a moss in seasonal colours - Red bog-moss, otherwise known as *Sphagnum capillifolium*.

This delicate species varies from a deep wine-red to bright green and can form dense hummocks. These sometimes look like red velvet cushions, or if you look closely, like tightly-packed cauliflower florets (or should that be sprouts?).

It is an important moss for the formation of peat, and can be found on open bogs. A very handsome plant indeed! Find out how to download our free moss ID app 'MoorMOSS' [here](#).

Christmas 2016

Merry Christmas!



Welcome to this festive edition of Community Scientist - the newsletter for Moors for the Future Partnership's unique volunteer project.

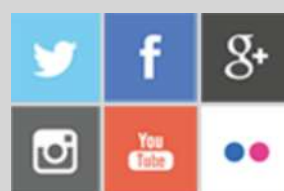
A huge thanks to all the many volunteers who have contributed to making the project a success in 2016. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Photo Competition



Just a reminder that there is still time to enter our 'Water in the Uplands' themed [photo competition](#) to win an HD nestbox camera system or a waterproof digital camera. It is open until New Year's Eve at midday.

Follow us online



Did you know? There are many ways to [keep in touch with Community Science](#) online.

Volunteer

There are lots of ways you can get involved - from surveying wildlife and the moorland environment, to working with data or communicating about the project via social media.

If you'd like to help, we'd like to hear from you.

[Sign up today and make a difference.](#)

You have received this e-mail because you have volunteered as a Community Scientist, signed up to our mailing list at an event or expressed an interest in Moors for the Future's Community Science project. If you do not wish to receive these e-mails you can unsubscribe below:

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