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In short...

BPT?



This year volunteers walked over 200km of bumblebee transects and recorded 2,161 bees - equating to 10.85 BPT (Bees per Transect)! Of our three target bee species, the bilberry bumblebee was the most frequently recorded, with 152 individuals being noted.

Sphagnum survey squares



2017 saw the first completed survey 'square' in our survey of Sphagnum mosses - The Big Moss Map. Volunteer David Hughes finished surveying 16.5km of paths - searching an area of 66,000 square metres! Well done David!

Buds, Berries and Leaves



Our first flowering dates in 2017 for the four upland plant species surveyed were:

- Crowberry - 24th March
- Bilberry - 9th April
- Rowan - 3rd May
- Heather - 1st July

A look back at the year

2017

This year Community Scientists have given over 5,000 hours of their time to help 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 400 hares and rabbits, nearly 500 ring ouzels and redwings and 495 curlews. A great effort!

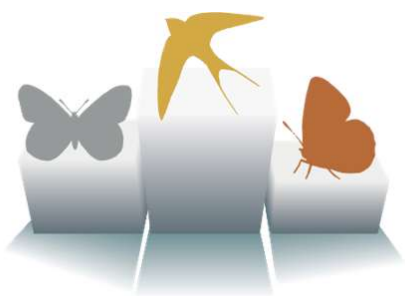
For more detail and images you can download our [2017 round-up presentation](#).

Tails of the Uplands



2017 saw the launch of our latest survey - Tails of the Uplands - in which Community Scientists have been searching for signs of otters, water voles and mink in the Dark Peak area. Volunteers have already found positive signs of otters on both the east and west sides of the Peak District - a great sign for a species which was once almost extinct in England.

Firsts and lasts



This year curlew was the most recorded animal in our 'casual' surveys. The first sighting away from the coast was on 1st February in Edale valley and the last was on 16th August.

The first swallow was seen on March 28th, and the last on September 28th - exactly 6 months later.

The earliest butterfly seen was a peacock on March 21st and the last of the year also a peacock on November 24th. The flight season recorded for the green hairstreak butterfly was a much shorter 37 days - but showed an almost perfect correlation (98%) with the national picture for this species.

Christmas 2017

Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our volunteers and readers of Community Scientist.

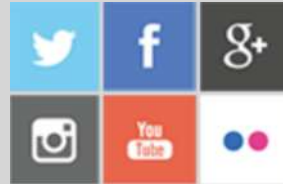
A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved this year. 2017 has been a great year for Community Science, not least because the project took first place in the Campaign for National Parks 'Park Protector' awards. Read on for a round up of some of the other highlights of the year...

Photo Competition



Just a reminder that there is still time to enter our 'Adventures in the Uplands' themed [photo competition](#) to win a wildlife watching telescope, walking gear bundle, outdoor clothing voucher or HD nestbox camera system. It is open until New Year's Eve at midnight.

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.](#)

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