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Wildlife news

This season's harestyle



Autumn is an excellent time to be on the look out for mountain hares as they transition to their white winter coat - which can help to camouflage them in a snowy landscape.

Since late October we've had 11 'transitioning' hares reported to us, but we'd like to know if you've seen one. Find out why and submit your sightings on our [website](#).

Autumn peacock



You might be surprised to learn that this peacock butterfly was spotted on Kinder Scout on 24th November.

Although it was seen at 530 metres in a strong wind, and the temperature was around 3C, the butterfly had managed to find a sheltered spot to bask in the sun.

Our previous 'latest' record was 1st November 2015 - spotted in the South West Peak. If you've seen any late peacocks this autumn please [let us know](#).

Peak otter



Community Science has now received the project's first positive signs of otters in the Peak District area through our Tails of the Uplands survey.

Otter droppings - known as spraint - have been found on both the west and eastern sides of the Peaks by volunteers taking part in the survey.

Spraint has a very distinctive and not unpleasant smell - which has been likened to jasmine tea and freshly cut hay - albeit more fishy!

To find out more about the survey, visit the [Tails of the Uplands webpages](#).

Photo competition



This year's photographic competition - the theme of which is 'Adventures in the Uplands' - is now open for entries.

There are lots of ways you could interpret the theme, but we're looking for dynamic, beautiful and unusual photos which show off people enjoying adventures in the British uplands - and will inspire people to visit our mountains, moors and bogs.

The competition has 2 categories: Adults (open to anyone 16 or over) and 15 or under.

The winner of the 'adults' category will receive an Opticon wildlife spotting telescope. Second prize is a walking adventure gear bundle courtesy of Adventurequip outdoor shop, while third place will receive a £50 voucher for outdoor clothing and equipment from Alpkit.

The winner of the 'age 15 and under' category will receive a high resolution bird box camera - courtesy of Gardenature.

The winning images will be selected by photographers Kate MacRae (Wildlife Kate) and Jack Perks.

The winning entries, runners up and selected photos from the short-list will also be on display in a touring exhibition next year.

[Find out more and enter the competition.](#)

New monitoring site at Holcombe Moor



Community Science is now collaborating with National Trust's Stubbins Estate to start long term recording of environmental and climate variables on one of their sites - Holcombe Moor near Bury.

Volunteers have carried out the initial site set-up and installed equipment including a rain gauge, auto dipwell to measure water table depth, and an air humidity logger.

They have also sited 30 quadrats which will be used for vegetation monitoring next summer, and measured the peat depth in 10 locations. Like our other sites, volunteers will now visit monthly to collect ongoing information.

Please get in touch with us if you'd be interested in helping with the monitoring on this site.

November 2017

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Community Scientist - the newsletter for Moors for the Future Partnership's Community Science project.

Award season



2017 has been a fantastic year for the project. We were thrilled to win the Campaign for National Parks 'Park Protector' group award which included a grant of £2000.

Community Science was also shortlisted for both the National Biodiversity Network group award for wildlife recording, and the National Parks Volunteer Awards - testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of our fantastic volunteers.

Send an owl...



This footage of a short-eared owl was captured by the wildlife camera installed and checked by volunteers on one of our environmental monitoring sites.

This visit, at 1.18 am, is the first time we've managed to record an owl at one of the sites.

Short-eared owls primarily eat small mammals such as voles, and can often be seen hunting during the daytime.

Sphagnum survey training



Our next training session for those wishing to take part in the 'Big Moss Map' Sphagnum moss survey is Dec 15th at Longshaw near Hathersage. [Reserve a place here.](#)

Follow us online



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

Volunteer with us

There are lots of ways you can get involved. 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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