Volunteers needed

Is there anyone out there who could spare a few hours to help out with the committee? If you think you might be interested, please phone either Gill Thomas (01404 861406) or Christina Bows (01297 23822).

Past events.

In April, Marjorie Waters led a very enjoyable walk from Dorset to Devon and back. The highlight of the morning was the sighting of the rare spurge laurel (Daphne laureola) which is neither a spurge or a laurel! They also passed the mill where Beatrix Potter set Little Pig Robinson’s house.

In May, we took to the sea aboard John Walker’s boat, who is a diver, fisherman and conservationist. In perfect conditions, with a flat sea, a light breeze and brilliant late afternoon sunshine, we cruised from Lyme Regis to Beer and back again. Not much wildlife was visible but there were very good views of the Undercliff as a whole, an abundance of recovering sea-life beneath us, good company, tea and lots of cake.

In June, for many of us, a first: beavers in the wild. We visited Derek Gow’s farm near Lifton where he has a specialist breeding unit for beavers and water voles. Derek is part of an independent team putting together a case for controlled release of beavers for environmental reasons …. flood control. After meeting water voles which will be soon be released in a newly restored habitat in Wales, we walked to a valley with an enclosed area in which beavers are living free …and building dams. It was a really cold evening and at first we thought we should have to be satisfied with just viewing their habitat but then one was to be seen grazing, which was wonderful!

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 14th July. 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. “Intriguing insights – a general introduction to the invertebrates of Aylesbeare Common” Meet at Aylesbeare Common RSPB Car Park G.R. SY 058 897. Collect specimens in the morning and take them to Harpford Village Hall in the afternoon to identify under microscopes with help and explanations from Pete Smithers of Plymouth University. All welcome but prior booking necessary with Una Garland on 01395 568230. £5pp + donations to DWT. Bring picnic lunch. Organised by East Devon Local Group.

Saturday 11th August. 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. “In Search of the Chalkhill Blues and other Rarities”. Meet at Branscombe Mouth Car Park SY 207 882. Strenuous walk led by Phil Parr Butterfly Enthusiast.

Monday 24th September. 7.30- 9.30pm ”Charles Darwin, His Life, Ideas and Influence.” Illustrated talk by local author, psychologist and wildlife photographer, David Croman, on Darwin’s early years, the Beagle, discoveries and controversies then and now. Kilmington Village Hall, near Axminster. Donations invited (suggested minimum £3pp)

Sunday 21st October. 10.30am -12.30 pm. Fungal Foray for identification and ecology only; led by Nigel Pinhorn, professional naturalist. DWT’s Hawkswood nature reserve
G.R.202974. Limited numbers. Booking essential with Christina Bows on 01297 23822. Donations invited (suggested minimum £4pp)

**Friday 2nd November.** 10.30am- 12.30 pm. **Fungal Foray** led by Nigel Pinhorn, professional naturalist. Cottshayne Wood near Colyton GR 225935. Limited numbers Booking essential with Christina Bows on 01297 23822. Donations invited (suggested minimum £4 pp)

**Monday 12th November:** 7.30-9.30 pm. “**Sustainable Farming**” An opportunity to meet Harry Barton, the new Director of Devon Wildlife Trust, as he talks about this very important subject which affects everyone, not just farmers.- but farmers particularly welcome. Kilmington Village hall, near Axminster. Donations invited (suggested minimum £3pp)

**Unconfirmed Event**
There will also be a joint event with Axe Vale Conservation Society with Pat Morris of the Mammal Society and Royal Holloway College talking about **Hedgehogs**. Details are not yet confirmed - probably 15 November - possibly at Colyford Village Hall. Phone Christina for further details.

**Friday 7th December:** 12 noon – dusk or later. **Winter birds, including the starling roost, on the Somerset Levels.** Meet Ashcott Corner GR ST 449397. Led by Ian Waite. Donations invited (suggested minimum £3pp ). Dinner afterwards at “Hawthorns” (seasonal and/or spicy) in Glastonbury if wished (6pm). Booking for dinner is essential by 30 November with Christina Bows 01297 23822.

Some of our events are limited in numbers and so booking is essential. Usually, more people want to come than we can accommodate so Christina keeps a stand-by list. If you find you cannot come to an event, please phone her. Even at short notice, it may be possible to invite someone else.
All events are free, unless otherwise stated, and open to everyone, but we do ask for a donation. We suggest £3pp for lectures and £4 for outdoor events. It may seem that our field events do not carry such high overheads but at the end of the year we must at least break even and hopefully make a donation to DWT.

You can visit us on [www.devonwildlifetrust.org/](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/) and follow the links to Local Groups. We try to update this site on a regular basis, so visit frequently to find out what is going on in our area and other local groups.

These letters are now being written by me, Gill Thomas. They are available free to anyone who would like them - not just DWT members. If you know anyone who might like them, please let me know, or get them to send an email to me with DWT in the subject line. Email addresses will not be disclosed to anybody, and will not be used for any other purpose. If you would rather not receive future newsletters, please contact me.

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