

8th December 2005

Regional Update

www.wmbp.org

Merry Christmas to our partners!



Welcome Back Alex & Goodbye Helen

Alex Kinnersley has returned part-time as the Regional Biodiversity Manager, working on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Although the RRB Project still has a few months to go the Regional Promotions Officer post is finishing at the end of December and Helen is leaving on 16th December. A big thank you to Helen for all her hard work with the project, and we wish her the very best of luck with her move to Aylesbury, Bucks.

Next WMBP Meeting

The next full WMBP meeting will be held on **Thursday 19th January 2006**, starting at 1.30 p.m. in Conference Room 5 at the Central Library, Birmingham.

WMBP Annual Conference

Date for the WMBP conference next year is **Thursday 2nd March 2006, at the Copthorne Hotel in Birmingham.**

Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers?

The number of non-native species in England, and their impacts on the environment has been revealed in research commissioned by English Nature. It was discovered that there are 2,721 non-native species in the wild, 73% of which are flowering plants escaped from gardens.

Non-native species can impact on biodiversity by displacing or preying upon native species, changing habitats, or introducing new diseases or parasites. The report identifies 19 species which have strongly negative environmental impacts, including signal crayfish which carry a disease that kills native crayfish. The report also identified four animals and 51 plants that had strongly positive economic impacts.

For more information visit EN's website or www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk.

Winning Entries

The WMBP West Midlands Wildlife Photography Competition has been judged and the winners informed. The winners will be announced at the prize-giving to be held on **Friday 6th January 2006** at Staffs Wildlife Trust. An invite has been forwarded with this RU. Please return the faxback form to Helen by 16th December if you wish to attend.

We still need some prizes – any contributions gratefully received.

Nature and the National Trust

The National Trust unveiled its first Nature Conservation Strategy, 'Nature and the National Trust' in September. It identifies the most important habitats and species in the Trust's care and provides an action plan to look after that wildlife. Central to the strategy is the need for conservation to focus on managing nature on 'a landscape scale' instead of in isolated reserves.

Download a copy from:

http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-chl/w-countryside_environment/w-nature-main/w-nature-strategy.htm

Regional Updates

Please submit all contributions for future editions of the RU to Alex at alex@wmbp.org (no more than 100 words).

Release dates:

16th January 2006
27th February 2006
17th April 2006
29th May 2006
10th July 2006

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