



## A Rocha Friends in Action – Dorset/West Hants: Newsletter January 2010

**Happy new year** to everyone and **welcome** to our first 'proper' local group newsletter. We're aiming at 3 or 4 issues a year, with a mix of news items, info about future events, environmental 'jottings' & group members' profiles. Wimborne-based group members John & Jane Cribb (*right*) have kindly agreed to co-ordinate the newsletter and would love to hear your feedback and also to receive possible contributions (details below).



### ***What's on?***

#### **Local group events**

##### **Saturday 27 February – Blashford Lakes (nr Ringwood); 9.30am (or 12.30pm)–4pm**

Practical conservation work (optional) in the morning on the Blashford reserve (probably coppicing). Picnic lunch (bring your own) at the visitor centre & hear from Andy Lester, A Rocha UK Conservation Director, and Bob Chapman, Reserves Officer at Blashford. Afternoon walk led by Andy Lester, to include viewing wintering birds. **Please let David & Jean Morgan know by 18 February (latest) if you are coming & if you'll be joining the morning work party as we need to give definite numbers to Bob Chapman.** Morgans' contact details: 01202 883504; [david.morgan@arocha.org](mailto:david.morgan@arocha.org); [jean.morgan@arocha.org](mailto:jean.morgan@arocha.org)

**Saturday 17 April – Day at Christchurch: Stanpit Marsh and Steamer Point Woods** hosted by local A Rocha Friends & regular conservation volunteers Andrew & Angela Walker. Guided walks at both locations, picnic lunch and opportunities for bird-watching and understanding ongoing conservation challenges. Exact timings & contact details in the next newsletter but book the date now!

**Saturday 19 June – Half-day flower walk on chalk-land in north Dorset** led by local A Rocha Friend and botanical expert Pam Marchant. Timing & contact info to follow.

We hope you will be able to make one or more of these events. Do feel free to invite others (who aren't A Rocha Friends yet!) to join us.

#### **You might also like to know about...**

Dorset Wildlife Trust's local group in Wimborne has got some interesting meetings coming up. All are held in the church hall at **St Catherine's Church, Leigh Road, Wimborne**, at **7.30pm**, & cost £2.

**Friday 15 January** – A Rocha Friend Revd Ted Pratt is the speaker on 'The wild flowers of the Isle of Purbeck', a subject on which he is an acknowledged expert.

**Friday 19 February** – Neil Gartshore (ex-warden of Arne) on 'Poole Harbour and its birds'.

**Friday 19 March** – Rees Cox, another well-known local naturalist, on 'The dragonflies of Dorset'.

Just a sample of what DWT local groups have to offer in Dorset & Hants. Check out your nearest one!

**Moors Valley Country Park** (BH24 2ET, near Ringwood) – **Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2009** exhibition from **23 January–28 February**. 9am-4.30pm every day in the Visitor Centre. Absolutely stunning wildlife pictures taken by photographers of all ages worldwide. 'Well worth a visit' (say David & Jean Morgan, who cycled to last year's exhibition!).

**East Dorset District Council** is doing its bit to try & keep stuff out of landfill. Its 'Give or Take Days' around the county encourage people to donate reusable items which others can then take away for free. Future Days are on Saturday 30 January at Sixpenny Handley Village Hall, SP5 5NJ, Saturday 27 February at Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall, BH21 4BQ, & Saturday 3 April at Colehill Memorial Hall, BH21 2LR.

**Hilfield Friary** (DT27 7BE, near Cerne Abbas) has a weekend exploring the links between peace and the environment from a Christian perspective on **23-25 July: Caring for Creation in a World of Crisis**. Speakers are Andy Lester, Conservation Director of A Rocha UK, and Revd Simon Brignall, who was involved with Chiltern Gateway, an A Rocha managed project in Oxfordshire. Details from 01300 341741 or [www.hilfieldproject.co.uk](http://www.hilfieldproject.co.uk)

## Looking back

### ***Local group event – Sir John Houghton on climate justice***

Many of you came to a full-to-overflowing St John's Church in Wimborne in November to hear Sir John Houghton address the topic of 'Climate justice: what would Jesus say at Copenhagen?' It was an encouraging & inspiring evening, and a great example of local groups working together to highlight an issue of global importance and enabling many to take action. The A Rocha stand did steady business, with many interesting conversations & lots of literature being taken. If you weren't able to be there & would like a DVD of Sir John's talk, please contact David & Jean Morgan.

### ***The Wave – Britain's biggest ever environmental event!***

A Rocha UK & local A Rocha Friends were well represented on the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition march in London on 5 December. Organisers estimated that some 50,000 people turned out to show political leaders the strength of feeling on climate change and the desire for a strong deal at Copenhagen – which, as we now know, sadly didn't happen. Westminster Central Hall (plus overflow halls plus impromptu worship outside) was packed out for a pre-march interdenominational service, during which we were encouraged to work and pray for climate justice – so let's continue to do just that. (The sharp-eyed will have spotted Jane Cribb on the pic in her fetching Wave head-gear!)



## Jottings

Any of you *Times* readers out there might have seen an article on New Year's Eve about the Strauss family from Gloucestershire, who managed to fill only *one* dustbin of non-recyclable rubbish during the whole of 2009! Their challenge of recycling as much as possible has led to a successful website, [www.myzerowaste.com](http://www.myzerowaste.com), where readers suggest green ways of disposing of all kinds of items (toilet seats...dregs of jars of pesto sauce...) to keep them out of landfill. Another useful source of recycling info you may like to consult (if you don't know about it already) is [www.recyclestore.co.uk](http://www.recyclestore.co.uk)

## And finally...

We're planning the next newsletter for mid-March, so if you have any relevant news/info about local events/website links/book or film recommendations/recycling or grow-your-own tips, etc, which you would like John & Jane to consider for inclusion (their editorial decision is final, of course!), please send them by 28 February ([jandcribb@btinternet.com](mailto:jandcribb@btinternet.com); 01202 883307).

Please contact David & Jean Morgan ([david.morgan@arocha.org](mailto:david.morgan@arocha.org), 01202 883504) if:

- you would like any more information about the Dorset/West Hants local group;
- you don't wish to receive local group info in future.

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