

CARG minutes March 2013

Present: Chris McInerny, Jenifer Davidson, Tony Monir, Stuart Bence (Stirling University Nature Society), Richard Jenkins, Julie Smith, Chris Cathrine, Brian Beck, Richard Weddle, Roger Downie, Erik Paterson, Ewan Kane, Anna Muir, John Sweeny, Kelly Barrett, Maggie Ferguson, Eilidh Spence

BHS- Kelvingrove/ Conference June 22nd/ 23rd lead GNHS- titled- 'Natives, Aliens and Reintroductions Conference'. More information can be found on the GNHS website and included in the conference will be a talk by Froglife and a poster presented by Chris Cathrine on Grass snakes.

ARG news- various from ARC and ARGUK

- 🕒 GCN projects- DNA
- 🕒 ARC Scottish Officer- funding approved by SNH- joint with ARGUK
- 🕒 SNH offering funding for GCN habitat management- Chris C has applied for but the area he is looking at might not fall into CARG area

Toad Crossing- Erik

- 🕒 Some members stated that Kirkintilloch group needed help but others reported that the site has been built upon.

SUSTRANS ponds- Ewan

- 🕒 Pertinas ponds or 'scrapes' completed along cycle path. 29 scrapes were funded, 27 completed. Various sizes but many are quite ditch like due to the nature of the land. Notice boards- art work being looked at. Frogs have started spawning in the ponds. Future maintenance work is likely to be required but hopefully can be completed by volunteers to minimise costs.

CARG funded pond- Maggie

- 🕒 Pond created close to old pond. CARG paid for liner. Completed through ranger training day and young people at work scheme.
- 🕒 Installed in August 2012
- 🕒 Approximately 200m from original pond
- 🕒 Update- currently frozen
- 🕒 Vague possibility there might be GCN in area

Lomond Adders - Chris Mc

- 🕒 11 adders seen already this year
- 🕒 Hydropower system- planning application submitted

- 🕒 Clyde Ecology completing consultation work
- 🕒 Offer to take group out on trip to site- sooner rather than later
- 🕒 Presentation given by Chris Mc on this site

Training

- 🕒 Froglife- all details on website
- 🕒 Central ARG- 20th and 21st April- NARRS training Dunmore Estate, Flanders Moss- reptiles
- 🕒 Mugdock- Maggie- conservation and education
 - Pond digging- date TBC
 - Mats down for lizards- public event
 - Looking for GCN at start of May- can take volunteers out- contact Maggie directly if interested
 - All events will be on CARG website and Mugdock website

Kilpatrick's Hills - ES asked if the group knew of any records of reptiles in the Kilpatrick's

- 🕒 Some suggestions of adders in Merkins, also Burncrooks but no records confirmed yet.
- 🕒 ES explained that the Forestry Commission will be completing a community consultation this year for the Forest Design Plan for this area. Information on this consultation will be passed on to the group.

Website issues

Call from John S and Erik- more info needed- photos and material

Chris C suggested adding a link to his grass snake poster

Joint working -Central ARG- name is CentARG

- 🕒 Boundaries- talk about east side of Loch Lomond- covered by both groups- in general will stay out of National Park unless surveying is required. Aberfoyle has good records for adders at the golf course. RSPB have taken over a large part of site and therefore surveys should be increased in the area.
- 🕒 CentARG- more target surveying
- 🕒 Questions raised over date collection/ storage in the past in this area- currently date should be with Buglife (RW).
- 🕒 Forestry Commission Scotland will have some records that cover Cent ARG area- ES to send Andy Gallaher's email on.

- 🕒 Keep dialog over areas surveyed to prevent cross over between groups.

Richard W called out for new records to be sent into the Glasgow Museums Records Centre.

- 🕒 Check old spread sheets.
- 🕒 Cannot find Chris Ballan's past records.
- 🕒 Few issues with old records submitted by members of the public
- 🕒 Some old records on NBN are suspect and details need checked. And NBN contacted to amend current info on system.

New ARC staff (Scotland) to complete an Atlas of reptiles and amphibians for Scotland but will need volunteers to assist with this.

Toads in Drains -

- 🕒 Tayside Biodiversity Forum
- 🕒 Study of toads in drains
- 🕒 Under recorded
- 🕒 ARG look into problems areas
- 🕒 Search record entre data- base search to highlighted areas
- 🕒 volunteers required to do this work
- 🕒 Maybe problems with ground troth
- 🕒 Feed back to roads department- kerbs
- 🕒 CARG help- capacity?
- 🕒 Targets sites
- 🕒 John S to send around spread sheet to group to encourage people to sign up
- 🕒 Info needed on what to survey for
- 🕒 Send current sheet to core group to comment on

Membership report

- 🕒 Currently 72 members
- 🕒 2 new members last year 2 paid, 2 extra people paying
- 🕒 3 other members not paid yet
- 🕒 Erik to get membership for from Ewan

Treasurers report

- 🕒 From the 1st of April 2012 £639.38
- 🕒 27th March 2013 £469.89- paid for pond liner- OUT. Ecology search fee- IN

Venue for meetings

- 🕒 Group informed that a new location must be sourced or group will have to pay university for janitorial cover.
- 🕒 Brain Beck proposed West of Scotland Cricket Club as alternative- will look into this
- 🕒 Alternative is to piggy back Clyde River Foundation Board meeting

Election of office bearers

Chair- John Sweeny

Secretary- Erik Paterson

Membership Secretary - Chris Cathrine

Next meeting- October 2013.