



Dear Community Scientist,

Welcome to the first 2016 edition of Community Scientist - the newsletter for Moors for the Future Partnership's unique volunteer project. Read on for updates, events, and ways you can get involved.

Season of the bumblebee



The 2016 bumblebee survey season is almost upon us. If you would like to take part this year and help us to monitor numbers of these important pollinators, then please visit our [website for details of how to get involved](#).

Picture perfect



With piercing yellow eyes, the short-eared owl alights for the briefest of moments on a fence post as golden evening sunlight bathes the moorland.

The judges chose Malcolm Mee's stunning shot as the overall winner in our 2015 photography competition. [Read more and see the runners up](#).



2015 in numbers

- 2.6 hares and rabbits recorded per day since survey launched in October
- 295 mm of rainfall on Black Hill during December
- 1,417 birds recorded
- 1,606 hours volunteered by Community Scientists
- 2,600 individual bumblebees counted
- 10,000 survey postcards distributed

First curlew of the year?

Last year our earliest record for a curlew returning to the moors was 27th February. We're interested to know when you see your first in 2016. Given the unusually mild winter so far, will it be earlier?

If you've seen a curlew please [submit your sighting to us using this form](#) - it only takes a few seconds to fill in.



Events

- *Take The Lead* in the Peak District (Dog walkers event) - February 27th - [Details](#)
- Bumblebee training session - Hathersage Memorial Hall - April 13th. [Reserve place](#)

Please check our [website events page](#) for updates and training events.

Bilberry Bumblebee

Species of the issue is this attractive upland bee (*Bombus monticola*), which is sadly in decline. It is a cool-loving species and in the Peak District tends to occur above 300 metres.



[Find out more...](#)

Sphagnum in the South Pennines



Our volunteers have been busy mapping where *Sphagnum* mosses are found across the region. Find out more about these fascinating plants and how easy it is to [contribute to this survey](#).

Orange-tip sightings



For many, their appearance heralds the start of spring. However, during the last decade (2005-14) this beautiful butterfly has seen a statistically significant decline in its recorded occurrence. It has also been moving north through the UK as the climate has changed - and is now found in Scotland. The 2015 flight period for this butterfly in Derbyshire was April 6th - July 1st; and we're keen to find out when you spot it this year. Every sighting counts, so please submit yours via our [easy online form](#).

Follow us

You can [keep up to date with Community Science](#) by following and liking us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr and more.



You can also read and even contribute to our regularly updated blog.

[Click here to read the blog](#).

Volunteer with the project

There are lots of ways you can get involved - from surveying wildlife and the moorland environment, to working with data or communicating about the project via social media. If you'd like to help, we'd like to hear from you - no matter what your previous experience or background.

[Sign up today and make a difference!](#)



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