

the froglife trust



Annual Review

April 2013
to March 2014

*The
Dragon
Finders*



contents

Froglife's Conservation Action	Pages 4 & 5
Froglife's Education Action	Pages 6 & 7
Froglife's Communications	Pages 8 & 9
Froglife's Finances and Accounts.....	Page 10
Looking to the Future	Page 11
Donors and Support	Page 12

The Froglife Trust Annual Review
April 2013 - March 2014
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www.froglife.org

Froglife is a registered charity
(no.1093372 in England & Wales and
no. SC041854 in Scotland) concerned
with the protection and conservation of
native herpetofauna in the wild.

Charity Patron: Mike Dilger



Mike Dilger

Welcome

From the Chair and CEO

This year we have been recruiting dragon finders up and down the country, young and older people have turned up in droves to our many events and have enthusiastically embraced our free to download App, providing us with lots of amphibian and reptile records. Surveying for our amphibians and reptiles is central to ensuring that we can provide suitable conditions so that these wonderful species can thrive.

This year alone we have reached 7,899 people through hosting 682 education and training sessions. The vast majority of these people came to wildlife conservation and particularly the conservation of amphibian and reptile species as novices, and it is the job of Froglife staff to take them on an exciting wildlife journey. As you will see from the letters and emails included in this annual review most people thoroughly

enjoy the journey and are keen to become more involved with the work of Froglife. This has led to the completion of 214 wildlife surveys, no mean feat when taking into account the secretive nature of our species and the often difficult terrain that has to be tackled to get close enough for identification purposes.

There is a paucity of data for amphibians and even more so for reptiles, mainly because these species have not been given the same priority as birds and mammals. At Froglife we are determined to address this matter and we have leaped forward this year in the number of species records we have collected. These records are essential as they help to inform our conservation efforts through identifying priority habitats and sites. These records can also be powerful evidence of species presence on sites designated for development and sometimes help to save a species rich site. Unfortunately all too often the development goes ahead but with sufficient data we can at least try to put in place a mitigation plan.

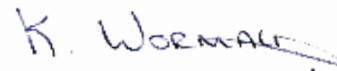
This year we have also taken species recording to a new, exciting and innovative level. We have introduced camera's into wildlife tunnels to enable us to establish

the effectiveness of these tunnels. So far we have had some amazing results and the range of wildlife that can be seen in these tunnels is astonishing. We hope to have a report out about this research as soon as possible.

Of course none of this success would have been possible without our extremely supportive board of trustees, our wonderful staff and all of our supporters and donors. We attract support from a wide range of trust funds, individuals and companies and we are extremely grateful to every single one of our supporters, so a big THANK YOU to you all.



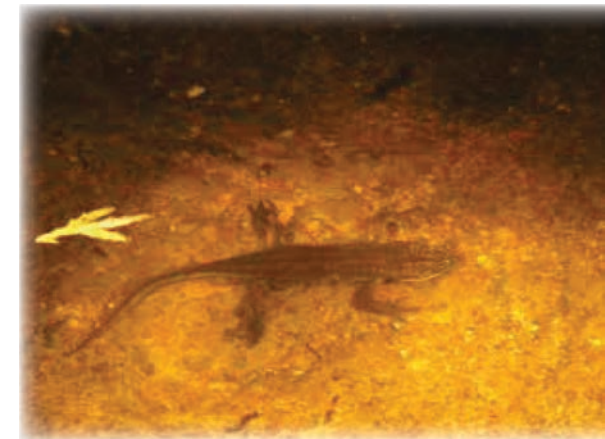
Lin Wenlock, Chair of Trustees



Kathy Wormald, CEO



A night of newt spotting...



...there's one!



Photo: Matt Wilson



*Hunting for reptiles
and amphibians*



**Supported by 539
habitat volunteers**

**60 terrestrial habitats
created & restored**

**72 volunteering sessions
on Hampton Nature
Reserve**



*Creating hibernacula for
animals to hide in*



10 July 2013

Dear James & Iain
Thank you for taking the time
to show me around the Living
Walters project today.

I very much enjoyed finding
out more about the Glasgow
work of FrogLife and it will
be of great help in my role
as a Species Champion for the
Common Toad.

Do get in touch if I can
ever be of help.

David Smith

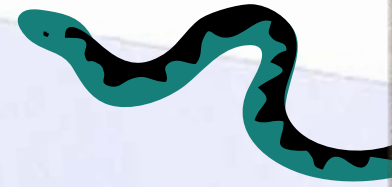
**62,264 toads saved
by Toads on Roads
volunteers Spring 2014**

**And an updated total of
83,082 toads saved in
Spring 2013**



Torches, toads and tunnels

Froglife's conservation action



Froglife's on-the-ground conservation projects involve volunteers and local communities in making a real practical difference. Our education projects involve many new audiences in this vital action to improve our environment. Through all this work, we leave green and blue footprints of ponds and new habitats across more and more areas of the UK.

This year we have created 37 new ponds which benefit amphibians, reptiles and other wildlife. We have restored 49 unloved ponds to their former glory. The habitat around water bodies is important too - providing areas to forage, hibernate and hide - and we have created and restored 60 terrestrial habitats. Our *Living Waters* programme of wetland improvement has spread to Sheffield, Northampton and Cumbernauld.

We have been increasingly involved in research, including some really exciting new and developing projects...

The Garden Wildlife

Health project

Working with the Zoological Society of London, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the British Trust for Ornithology, we are part of a new citizen science project with a fantastic online system enabling people to log any sightings of dead or suffering animals. This project is mapping disease outbreaks, particularly in frogs, and helping develop understanding of the threats to amphibians and reptiles (as well as garden birds and hedgehogs) and identifying what we can do to help.

Toad tunnel cameras

How did the toad cross the road? It's much more complex and interesting than you might think, and we are pioneering an exciting approach to finding out more. We now have 5 cameras in 2 amphibian tunnels, monitoring how many animals go in, how long they spend in there and

how many turn back before fully crossing. With amphibian tunnels being costly and complicated, we need to know the best way to install and maintain them to help the animals they are designed for.

Hampton Nature Reserve

We manage the amazing Orton Pits Site of Special Scientific Interest just outside Peterborough on behalf of O&H Hampton. The site is home to the largest known population of Great Crested Newts in Europe and we have a dedicated team of volunteers helping us maintain and monitor this precious area. We have been undertaking some really important research into the impact of fish in some of the ponds on the newts and different habitat management techniques for the benefit of a range of species.

214 wildlife surveys

*for reptiles, amphibians,
butterflies, dragonflies,
stoneworts, aquatic &
terrestrial invertebrates
& water voles*

37 new ponds created

49 ponds restored

Creating & restoring ponds by hand...



... and by machine





Nick Baker introduces some of the inhabitants of the new ponds by Froglife at the Green Backyard



Photo: Adrian Pickering



An amazing letter that highlights exactly what Froglife's education work is all about...

"Dear Alan,
I wanted to thank you again for such a great workshop. I've had fantastic feedback from people who attended; they really enjoyed it and you've helped us prioritise wildlife habitats and welfare on our plot. I think we'll carry out a baseline survey soon, just so we have a picture of what we're doing in terms of ponds and shelters and what type of wildlife we currently have on site.
My own son loved it and we went back in the evening and unbelievably we found our first frog in our new pond. (I've attached a blurry photo.) It was like Christmas! and Alistair said 'I think maybe Alan is a bit magic!' He also told me it was his best ever day on the allotment. By the time we'd got home, he'd downloaded the dragonfinder app and uploaded a description of the frog... all without my help. (I heard frog sounds coming from his bedroom all evening as he worked through the different calls on the app.)
The resource pack has been great too. We've looked through it and we're going to put in a pond in our garden at home and join as Friends of Froglife.
So, I really can't thank you enough for such a great session and for really inspiring everyone there."

From Colleen, participant in a London Dragon Finder allotment training event with Alan Shearman, Project Administrator

7,899 people reached through 682 education and training sessions



Froglife's education action

Inspiring and engaging

Our education and learning projects reach out to people from diverse backgrounds, helping them to notice the creatures hidden around them and care for their local amphibians and reptiles. We have provided 682 education and training sessions and through them reached 7,899 people with our messages about frogs, toads, newts, snakes and lizards.

Wildlife Ambassadors

Our Wildlife Ambassadors project, funded by Access to Nature wrapped up in style in the last year, having provided training and volunteering opportunities for 107 people not in employment, education or training. We celebrated with *BBC SpringWatch's* Nick Baker at the glorious Green Backyard in Peterborough where Ambassadors have created 2 ponds. The project also hosted 15 events across Peterborough, reaching 3,261 people over its 3 year lifetime.

Green Pathways

Green Pathways, our project supported by BBC Children in Need to provide activities for vulnerable teenagers, goes from strength to strength and is now in its final year in Peterborough. We have created bug hotels, ponds and gardens at special schools, pupil referral units, community gardens and wildlife murals. Excitingly, we have also developed a new Glasgow Green Pathways project, expanding to reach more young people with fun and educational activities.

Froglife Active

Conservation Team

We continue to organise reparation activities for young offenders in Peterborough, enabling them to give back to their local communities. We have organised 254 sessions for 121



10-17 year olds, meaning an amazing 762 hours of conservation action!

Dragon Finders

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, our Dragon Finder project started in London and has flown to Scotland, with an application submitted this year to extend the project along the River Nene. This ambitious network of projects aims to bring experiences with amphibians and reptiles to the masses, whilst mapping animal sightings and improving habitats.

Thank you

We'd like to thank everyone who has taken part in or supported our educational activities, especially volunteers John Bailey and Ash Jarvis, who also won awards for their hard work this year.



Discovering new friends...

"Just thought I'd drop you a line to say well done for the really good mural under the rail bridge alongside the river. Hopefully this will help deter the graffiti vandals. We need more of this!"



One of the winning poems in our Scottish Dragon Finder competition...

Learn to love yourself for who you are

I lie on my favourite branch, lazing in the sun,
I jump and play around the old oak tree having so much fun.
I swim in the lily pad pond till I'm tired to the bone,
I sometimes wonder to myself why I'm so alone.

I listen to the sweet songs of the birds in the trees,
I walk along the pebbly path, breathing in that early morning breeze.
I pounce onto my yummy morning breakfast, ready for my feast,
I look at myself in the river, and wonder why people think I'm such a beast.

I then think to myself a funny little thought,
I am who I want to be though I'm warty and short.
I climb up and up until I get to my usual sleeping spot,
I am now a frog who knows you should love yourself no matter what.

By Lucy Adair, Sciennes Primary School



8,954 Twitter followers

2,189 Facebook fans



Photo: Carole Hall



Photo: Lucy Gallagher



Froglife's communications

Reaching out & championing

The animals that we work to protect are not always seen in the best light. We are continuing to investigate people's perception of amphibians and reptiles through our *Scale of the Problem* project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As popular as some of our gorgeous amphibians and reptiles may be in children's stories and other parts of our culture, they are also villified as slimy, scary or unclean. News stories often focus on snake bites and scare stories, so it's vital for Froglife to keep adding our voice and sharing the positive and inspiring news about amphibians and reptiles.

We do this both directly, through events and face-to-face interaction with people and through technology and social media. Both approaches help us stand up for frogs, toads, newts, snakes and lizards, and enchant people as they discover more about these amazing creatures. We also then share tips on how to help them, encouraging wildlife-

friendly gardening, pond creation and wildlife recording.

Come and say hello

This year we have attended or arranged 118 events, including Scottish Birdfair, the Glasgow Show, Peterborough Green Festival, a host of community garden and allotment open days and family fun days. We reached out to 4,846 people - sharing our wildlife-friendly messages.

Multimedia

We are gaining support every day with a growing audience of Friends and Followers, helping us to spread the word online about helping frogs, toads, newts, snakes and lizards. In 2013, we were delighted to help the BBC *SpringWatch* team with information for a gorgeous little film bringing to life the amazing journey Common Toads make each year. We also launched our new new look website at www.froglife.org, which so far has attracted around twice the number of visitors as the old site.

Supported by

champions

Fortunately, amphibians and reptiles are making friends in high places. Scottish Environment LINK have recruited a total of 69 Members of Scottish Parliament as Species Champions - representing 85 native wildlife species. There are 8 champions standing up for 8 species of amphibians and reptiles.

We launched Scottish Dragon Finder with a high-profile event at the Scottish Parliament, reaching decision makers with the news that amphibians and reptiles need help. The above poem by Lucy was one of the winners of our creative writing competition as part of the launch.



**118 events with
4,846 people**

I would highly recommend Froglife to any potential volunteers, as I had a fantastic time there. My volunteering time allowed me to build on many skills, such as database management and public interaction, which I would not have been able to improve upon otherwise.

Gemma, student volunteer

The numbers



Froglife's Annual Accounts

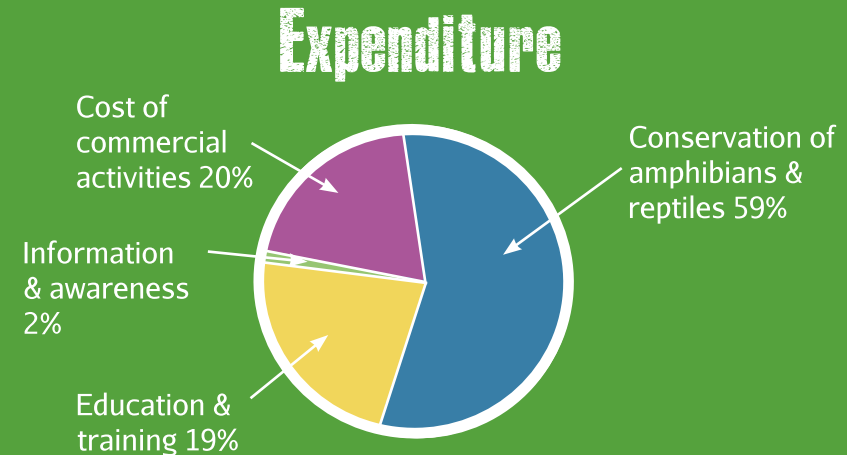
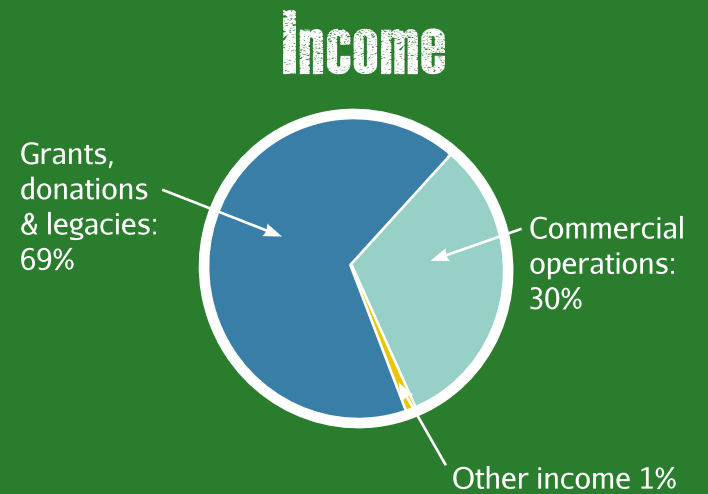
	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	Total
<i>Income</i>			
Grants, donations & legacies	£601,956	£41,454	£643,410
Commercial operations in trading subsidiary	£ -	£276,260	£276,260
Other income	£ -	£6,604	£6,604
Total	£601,956	£324,318	£926,274
<i>Expenditure</i>			
Cost of generating funds: commercial activities	£ -	£175,162	£175,162
Conservation of amphibians & reptiles	£500,980	£13,292	£514,272
Education & training	£94,836	£70,506	£165,342
Information & awareness	£ -	£15,784	£15,784
Governance costs	£ -	£3,457	£3,457
Total	£595,816	£278,201	£874,017

As you can see from the figures, Froglife continues to be very successful in applying for grants to deliver projects. This enables us to provide our range of problem-solving and innovative programmes across the UK, developing and growing them as we go. Thank you to all our grant funders for supporting this valuable work.

You can also see how much we can do with often limited resources - all the restricted funding

that comes in for projects must go straight back out again to pay for materials, staff time and equipment.

The figures also highlight the crucial need for unrestricted funding to help us be more flexible in our spending. Froglife staff and trustees continue to work hard in developing other sources of funding.



It was another strong year for one vital source of income - Froglife Ltd, our commercial consultancy arm undertakes practical work for amphibians and reptiles. The profits made by Froglife Ltd are donated to the Trust.



What happens next....

Froglife's plans for the next few years

Green Pathways

Our project for vulnerable teenagers comes to an end in its current phase in December 2014. We are applying for another three years funding to enable us to continue to offer fun, educational and therapeutic activities from 2015.

Following a pilot phase, we also aim to roll out this inclusive project for young people to a new city. We will apply for funding for a three year Glasgow Green Pathways project from January 2015.

Living Waters

We aim to expand our pond and wetland creation programme to South Lanarkshire, creating and restoring habitats from July 2015 to June 2016. We are also applying for a second phase of our Sheffield Living Waters programme to run at the same time.

Green infrastructure for herpetofauna in Romania's Natura 2000 sites

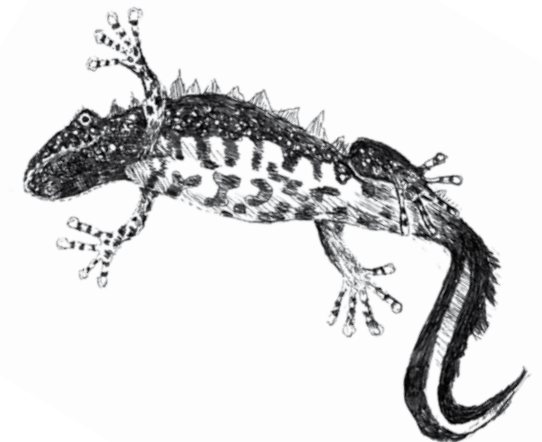
In an exciting move, we are applying for funding for our first on-the-ground European project. Starting in Oct 2015 and running until Sept 2018, the project will work with a wide group of partners including environmental consultants, road authorities, protected area managers and

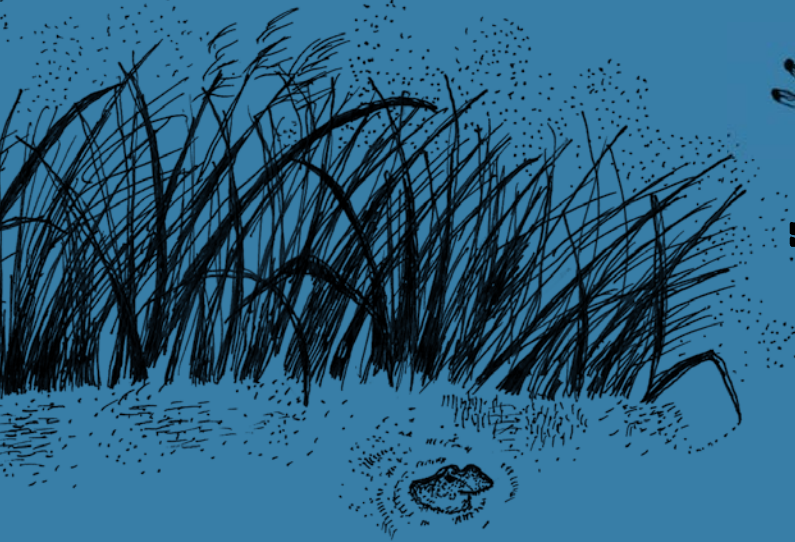
environmental protection agencies to inform, update, train and prepare for the successful implementation of road mitigation and protection measures for the country's amazingly rich herpetofauna assemblage of over 45 species including two land tortoises, six toad species and 11 species of snakes.

Dragon Finder

As we were about to go to press we got the very good news from Heritage Lottery Fund that they have awarded a £472,400 grant towards our River Nene Dragon Finder project. The project will be up and running by January 2015 and will be delivering a range of innovative and exciting activities whilst also creating and restoring habitats. The project is working in Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire through which the river runs.

The Dragon Finder programme is central to Froglife's work and we are committed to rolling it out to other regions, during the next year or so. We will be carrying out a scoping exercise to establish the most appropriate area for the next Dragon Finder project.





Thank you

A big THANK YOU from the whole Froglife family to all our supporters and donors, including:

Our Froglife Friends

Our Friends support us with regular donations, contributing to our vital unreserved funds meaning that we can keep up our hard work for amphibians and reptiles. You can sign up as a Froglife Friend on our website at:

www.froglife.org/become-a-friend

Legacies and celebrations

Leaving a gift to charity in your will is an amazingly positive and generous thing to do and we are very grateful to everyone who has supported Froglife in this way, or plans to in the future. For more information please visit:

www.froglife.org/how-to-leave-a-legacy

Scottish Species Champions

John Wilson MSP - Great Crested Newt

Drew Smith MSP - Common Toad

Elaine Murray MSP - Natterjack Toad

Jim Hume MSP - Leatherback Turtle

Joan McAlpine MSP - Adder

Richard Baker MSP - Common Frog

David Torrance MSP - Common Lizard

Bruce Crawford MSP - Slow-Worm

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Grant making trusts, Councils and other organisations

Alyth Hill Users Group

Angus Environmental Trust

British Ecological Society

BBC Children in Need

Biffa Award

Bromley Trust

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership

Central Scotland Forest Trust

The City Bridge Trust

Cooperative Community Fund

Cory Environmental Trust

Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust

The Esmée Fairburn Foundation

Garfield Weston Foundation

Glasgow Natural History Society

Heritage Lottery Fund

The Hugh Fraser Foundation

The Ironmongers' Company

J. P. Getty Junior Charitable Trust

London Boroughs Councils including:

Croydon

Bromley

Tower Hamlets

Havering

Southwark

Natural England

Northamptonshire City Council

The Mackintosh Foundation

Patagonia and The Tides Foundation

Perth and Kinross Quality of Life Trust

Peterborough City Council

The Robertson Trust

SITA

SSE plc

Sheffield City Council

The Tudor Trust

The Wakenham Trust

Western Riverside Environmental Fund

The William Dean Trust

WREN