



## Newsletter

October  
2009



### *Working with you to explore local biodiversity*

The 2009 season has been an extremely busy one for the Hi-Tech Wild-Trek trailer: the best ever. The lack of any newsletter production during the summer is a reflection of how much time we have spent of the road. A further consequence of all the travelling was the demise of the trailer's suspension and that resulted in having to replace the axle in September. At the start of the year, our inverter, the device that allows us to run off batteries, also failed and the costs involved have delayed some other developments within our system. Nevertheless, HTWT has completed all scheduled engagements so far this year, and we look forward to being just as successful in 2010.

If you do not wish to receive this monthly communication direct to your inbox, please e-mail Richard and you will be removed from the mailing list. The newsletter will also appear on the [5kingdoms.co.uk](http://5kingdoms.co.uk) website.

#### Hi-Tech Wild-Trek and the FBA



One interesting development this year has been the collaboration between HTWT and the Freshwater Biological Association. Richard is an FBA member and contacted FBA headquarters when he read that they wanted to raise public interest in freshwater life. It was obvious that our objectives overlapped and so 2009 has seen a lot of co-operation between us. Richard and Chris have been on FBA run courses in Cumbria and Dorset and the trailer has made more than one visit to the FBA HQ alongside Lake Windermere!! The first of these was as part of the BBC Springwatch "Dirty Weekend." The dirtiest thing about it was the weather unfortunately.

Despite this, HTWT has been able to help celebrate the construction of a new Big Lottery Fund sponsored wildlife pond close to the lake and to monitor its progress as natural colonisation has taken place during the year. Another consequence of the collaboration has been the "Dipping Deeper" concept, which you can read about below.



#### Dipping Deeper



Over the past 13 years, HTWT has introduced a very large number of people, young and not so young, to an underwater world that had been previously outside their experience. Anyone wanting to take that interest further by joining an interest group would be hard pushed to find anything suitable. There is nothing remotely comparable to the support available to birders or even to fanciers of bats, badgers or herpetiles. HTWT would like to help fill this gap. We are planning to run a few special days that will offer a more detailed look at freshwater life. These will provide an opportunity to increase knowledge and perhaps be a stepping stone to a deeper involvement through courses offered by the FBA and other organisations. If this appeals to you, let us know and we will try to arrange our events at locations that are easily accessible to you. We would like to work with enthusiasts of all ages and levels of experience - so just get in touch. We would also like to hear from anyone who can offer a venue or sponsorship for these Dipping Deeper events.

#### On the Road in 2009

We would like to say thank you to all of our clients, both regular and new, who have booked the trailer in 2009. We hope that you have been pleased with the service you received. We have enjoyed working with you and have had some very interesting times as we have travelled about the country. A report of all the HTWT venues will appear on the website in due course covering all points from Devon to Kent and the occasional dash up to Cumbria. There's just enough space to mention a couple of memorable moments: the delight of watching a damselfly emerge during Hampshire Green Fair, and the time we were temporarily immobilised on uneven ground at the Old Brickfield Site in Seaford. We don't make a record of the numbers of people visiting the trailer during an event but we can guess that it has been many thousands during the year, and they have seen a very wide range of animal life from cockles to caterpillars and pike to protozoa!

#### On the Road in 2010

Bookings are already coming in for next season. HTWT is usually on the road from March to October and especially busy from May to August. If you are staging one of the regular events that HTWT attends, please let us know your proposed dates as soon as possible so that we can pencil it in the diary. We know that budgets are going to be squeezed next year and we will try to keep any increase in our hire charge to a minimum and so it will remain at approximately £300/day.

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