

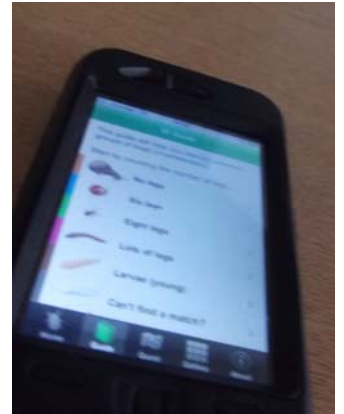
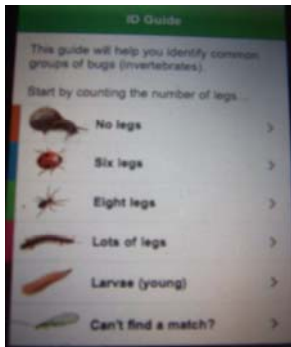


Ooh, that's interesting, what is it?

Have you been out and about recently and spotted something unusual but you're not quite sure what it was?

There is a great new website which might be able to help you identify it called iSpot (www.iSpot.org.uk). Simply upload your photo of the unidentified bird, beastie or plant and pretty soon someone will help you identify it. The website is managed by the Open University and Opal. They

have also developed keys to help you work out what it is yourself, and even keys that you can download to your phone so that you can identify things out in the field.



Once you have identified the species, don't forget to add it to the Cofnod database so that it can add to our knowledge of North Wales wildlife (www.cofnod.org.uk). Happy spotting!

As well as ispot there are some smart phone apps to help us identify species we've seen.

We've listed some we know about below, let us know if you've found a really good one!

- 1. Opal bugs count pocket id guide** from the natural history museum: Get to know some of Britain's bugs and help scientists discover more about our environment with this app. From tiny insect larvae to leggy harvestmen, the OPAL Bugs Count app gives you the chance to get to know common British bugs and send your sightings straight to the website. It's now available to download for free
- 2. Field Studies Council:** get one for free then additional apps cost £1.49 each Choose from ladybirds, bees, freshwater fish, playing field plants and freshwater invertebrates
- 3. Herptileid** – Reptiles and amphibians of the British isles (by isoperia) £2.49 includes identification key, sightings distribution map and includes introduced species.
- 4. Treeid** – The British tree identification guide (by isoperia) £2.49

For more natural world apps see <http://www.countryfile.com/countryside/countryside-smartphone-apps> and <http://visitwoods.org.uk/en/visit-woods/plan-your-visit/Pages/nature-wildlife-wood-apps.aspx>

Help make North East Wales hedgehog friendly!



The hedgehog used to be a regular visitor to our garden but over the last 20 years hedgehogs have declined by as much as 50% in parts of the UK and it looks as though the decline is continuing in England and Wales.

This autumn we're aiming to raise awareness about the decline of hedgehogs by linking into the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species



(PTES) Hedgehog street project which gives people a chance to help hedgehogs in our local communities! Historically the hedgehog inhabited woodland edge habitat, over the years it adapted to live happily in hedgerows and gardens. It was named after the habitat it lives in and the noise the prickly little mammal makes as it forages and searches for a mate. It is one of only three true hibernating mammals in the UK, along with bats and dormice the hedgehog will spend 6 months of the year hibernating where it will lower its heartbeat, body temperature and breaths per minute. A nocturnal usually solitary mammal, a hedgehog will travel about 1 mile in a night feeding on worms, beetles, spiders and slugs. Reasons why hedgehog numbers have reduced so dramatically are not fully understood, there are lots of different factors effecting rural and urban hedgehogs but the evidence indicates that both populations are declining. Some factors affecting hedgehogs include; Habitat loss; loss of hedgerows, fewer rough field edges, poorly connected habitat, increased tidiness in our gardens and impenetrable garden boundaries.

Top tips for helping hedgehogs include; Avoid using slug pellets, check piles of wood or garden debris before burning, install pond escape routes, leave space for log piles or a less tidy area of your garden, check long grass or vegetation before mowing or strimming, create 15cm sq access/exit point to and from your garden under fencing or gates.

What are we doing in Flintshire? School/community group talks:

If you would like the biodiversity officer to come into your school or to your community group and provide a talk on hedgehogs please contact her on sarah.slater@flintshire.gov.uk. School talks can be linked into curriculum topics.

More information: If you want to find out anymore about hedgehogs from feeding, improving your garden, what to avoid, we have information that we can send to you electronically or by post. Just contact us on the contact below. We also have a record a hedgehog online facility at <http://www.cofnod.org.uk/>. Just go to the website and register, its very quick and easy, once you have registered, click on record a species and you will see the record a hedgehog button, just click on that and fill in the simple form. If you want to find out more about becoming a hedgehog champion and helping your street/community becoming more hedgehog friendly then visit www.hedgehogstreet.org

Help your local wildlife to survive the winter

As the days become shorter and temperatures drop over the winter months it becomes harder for much of our wildlife to survive. Food is scarcer and the low temperatures mean it takes more energy just to stay warm. Some species spend the winter in hibernation to conserve energy, but others are still active throughout the cold weather.

There are lots of provide a helping local area. Don't be hedges until late and hips are available heads on plants. during the winter can meaning that they



things you can do to hand to wildlife in your too tidy! Delay trimming winter so that berries for birds, and leave seed Tidying your garden also disturb creatures have to expend extra



energy finding somewhere else to

shelter. A log or stone pile can provide somewhere for creatures like toads and newts to hibernate over winter.

You could provide food and water for birds. Fatty, high-energy foods are really important during cold weather, but once you've started putting out food for birds please continue until spring because birds will come to rely on it. Stop water from freezing by floating a ping-pong ball on the surface.

Try a few of these ideas and give your local wildlife a helping hand over the winter.

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Contact us:

Wrexham:

emma.broad@wrexham.gov.uk

Tel: 01978 292514

Flintshire:

sarah.brown@flintshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01352 703263

Denbighshire:

elizabeth.webster@denbighshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01824 708263

Conwy:

anne.butler@conwy.gov.uk

Tel: 01492 575123