



Roborough Rewilders Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1203077

www.roboroughrewilders.org

Species Numbers and the Fields

The fields are looking particularly impressive just now. Four years on from the digger work, the areas we cleared of turf are filled with flower—huge amount of yellow rattle but also clover, knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, St. John's wort and even an orchid! There seem to be large numbers of grass snakes this summer and new mammals on the site include a hare and a badger.



The Devon County Show

Roborough Rewilders had a presence at the Devon County Show on May 15th, 16th and 17th. We met lots of interesting people and generally spread the rewilding message. This is the first of seven shows we will attend this summer.



Roborough Rewilders Open Day

Our Members/Open Day on June 14th was a big success. The day dawned bright but cloudy. One brief rain shower early on as we were setting up and that was it; a lovely sunny day followed. Around 40 people pitched up. Nick led a walk round the fields, while others chose to take a map and explore by themselves. Jack from the Sustainable Chulmleigh Group gave a fascinating talk about invertebrates, Nick Withers talked about wildlife photography and Paul Hopkinson (aka the Devon Artist) helped many people individually with their questions about trail cameras. Pasties and cakes went down well at lunchtime and various leads and projects have sprung from the event.





Upcoming events include a talk that Nick will give at the Quarterly Climate Forum in Barnstaple on July 5th and another walk round of the fields on July 11th. On 23rd we will be at the Old Fair in Chulmleigh and then at the Mid Devon Show on July 26th. Lots going on this summer!

Goats

As you know, a mob of 9 Red Devon cattle belonging to local farmer, Neil, come into the fields once a year to emulate the huge beasts of yesteryear and knock back the vegetation. But the brambles are growing too vigorously and goats could be the answer! We are actively investigating goats with GPS collars to come and help us with our bramble problem. Watch this space!

Projects

Roborough Rewilders is involved in three more projects to help biodiversity on other people's land. One is basically a re-creation of the Roborough project in a five acre field on the North Devon coast. This will happen this summer. The other two are pond creation schemes for farmers involving the digging of eleven more biodiversity ponds. We are also looking at setting up a small group who could advise/do other such work.

Best regards,

Nick and the Trustees

Photos courtesy of Annie Bengel and Paul Hopkinson
aka The Devon Artist <https://devonartist.co.uk/>

<https://www.clarksonwoods.co.uk/>

<https://devonartist.co.uk/>

<https://www.naturewithnick.com/>