

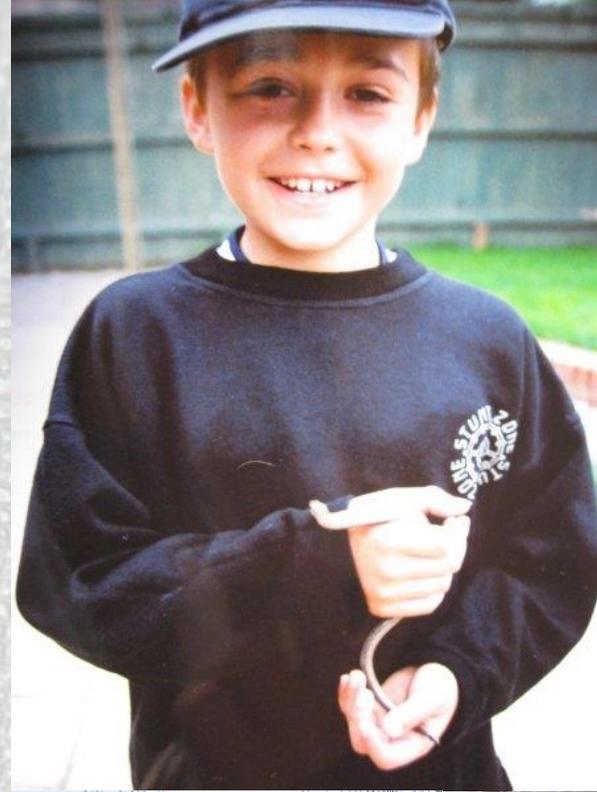
Helping Amphibians and Reptiles in our Gardens

Jamie Neaves



About Me

- University of Southampton Herpetological Society
- Surrey & Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Groups
- Madagascar Herpetologist
- Natural England



What can we find in our gardens?



Common frog



Fred Holmes



© Peter Gillatt 2018

Common toad



Larry Dohery / Alamy stock photo



Common frog

Common toad



DP Wildlife Vertebrates / Alamy stock photo



Fred Holmes

Palmate newt



Fred Holmes

Smooth newt



Chris Desh

Great crested newt



Grass snake



Common lizard





Slow worm

And the others...



Sand lizard



Smooth snake



Natterjack toad



Northern pool frog



Adder

Why do they need our help?

- They aren't as cute as hedgehogs?
- Habitat loss – breeding, feeding, sleeping
- Habitat fragmentation – population genetics
- Climate change – cold blooded
- Disease – chytrid and Bd





How can we help?

Our reptiles and amphibians need 3 things. Somewhere to...

Breed

Feed

Sleep

Rough Edges & Untidy Corners

- Leave some un-mown corners
- Rough/soft edges – particularly sunny!
- Logs, rocks and debris
- Hedges, shrubs and ground cover plants





Compost heaps

- Open is best, and left for wildlife
- Check before turning
- Have two on the go?
- Garden waste, cardboard, vegetables – no cooked food, meat, eggs etc (rats!)





Hibernacula – winter ‘hibernation’

- Best if dig down
- Rocks, wood, soil, pipes
- Let plants (bramble) grow over
- Sunny and dry location
- The joint TOP garden feature





Ponds – the best thing for everything!

- As deep as possible – 30cm helps frogs over winter
- Different levels (temperatures)
- Native plants – oxygenators, water mint for newts (beware!)
- An easy to access entry/exit point
- NO FISH















Frogs vs Newts vs Grass Snakes vs Toads



Paul Cecil



© Neil Phillips
www.uk-wildlife.co.uk

Connectivity

- Hedgehog holes
 - Gaps under fences
 - Check google maps
 - Encourage your neighbours
 - Damp stepping stones
-
- Does it have to be a solid fence?



Don't move them!



Monitoring and recording

- Check ponds in the day or at night with a torch
- Carpet squares or refugia around the garden or compost heaps





A collaborative project from  ARG UK &  amphibian and reptile conservation

Welcome to the Record Pool

The Record Pool collects data on herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) in the UK and to makes it available, locally and nationally, for conservation purposes.



- 39 Species
- 247 Counties
- 15,834 Recorders
- 34,052 Submissions
- 58,737 Records

 About

Find out more about

 Record

Tell us about reptiles

 Data

Have a look at the the

 Map

Play with the data on

Conservation & Research in Hampshire

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group

- Transect & pond surveys with data access for landowners
- Public engagement events
- Conservation management advice
- Volunteer work parties
- Fire rescues



Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust

- National conservation management and reserves
- Advise the government on policy and legislation



A mission for Alton residents...



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European wall lizard – longer and slightly larger

Look out in warm sunny gardens, old buildings and of course walls! St Lawrence's Church?

Record on recordpool.org.uk with a photo and tell the ANHS!

