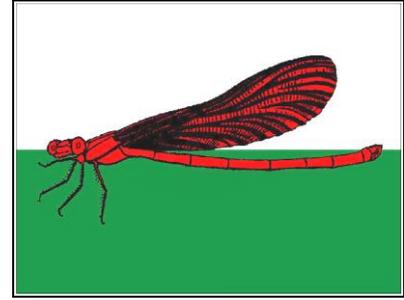


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North Wales
Dragonfly
Newsletter
No. 91

24th April 2017



Odonata news and events from across the vice counties of Anglesey, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire



Hi all,

I haven't yet received any news of odonate emergence from North Wales and nothing has appeared at my garden pond as far as I am aware. Elsewhere adults are appearing in some abundance as, for example, at Dick Eastwood's Radnorshire marshy ponds.

Dragonfly events in 2017

There is simply no excuse to be ignorant of odonate identification and behaviour by the end of the year! Several training days have been planned in North Wales as follows:

Cors Erddreiniog NNR, Saturday, 24th June 2017

Hannah Shaw, People Ponds and water Welsh Project Officer, Freshwater Habitats Trust as asked me to lead a dragonfly walk on Cors Erddreiniog, NE Anglesey, on the 24th June. We will meet up at 10 am at the large parking area [SH45978230] at Maes Gwynedd housing estate from where we will access the fen. We will finish about 1pm so bring something for elevenses and lunch if you don't want to rush off. Wellies seem appropriate. Please contact Hannah to see if places are available: 07703 808523;
www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

Cors Goch NNR, Friday, 30th June 2017

Anna Williams of the NWWT has organised a dragonfly walk through Cors Goch, NE Anglesey, led by Rhys Jones. I won't be able to make the day unfortunately. Please contact Anna for details: 01248-360981 or 07772280970;
AnnaWilliams@wildlifetrustswales.org

Pensychnant Conservation Centre and Gwern Engen, Saturday, 15th July 2017

As part of the '1967 - 2017 50 years Working for Snowdonia' celebrations Mary-Kate Jones, Project Manager for the Snowdonia Society has asked me to do an introductory talk on dragonflies and damselflies for their volunteers and members at Pensychnant Conservation Centre near Conwy. This will be followed in the afternoon by a visit to nearby bog lake Gwern Engen to actually see and identify some of the critters. There may be places for other people and if you want to attend please e-mail Owain Thomas:
owain@snowdonia-society.org.uk

Rhydymwyn Nature Reserve. Thursday, 13th July 2017

Paul Furnborough has organised a basic training day for their staff and volunteers at Rhydymwyn Nature Reserve near Mold on the 13th July and asked me to help out. There will be a workshop in the morning followed by a site visit to the Rhydymwyn ponds or nearby Lane End. Though organised for their people there may be places available so please contact Paul at: 01978 269568; PFurnborough@newwildlife.org.uk

Holt Clubtail workshop. Wednesday 17th May 2017

North Wales Wildlife Trust and the British Dragonfly Society will be organizing an identification workshop on the 17th May, meeting 1.30pm at Holt Cross (outside Cleopatra's Coffee Shop) Holt, Wrexham. It will comprise a River Dee walk searching for newly emerged adults and exuviae, and discussing the biology and ecology of the Common Clubtail. Contact Jonathan Hulson, North Wales Wildlife Trust for more details: 07726 358228; jonathanhulson@wildlifetrustswales.org

Dragonfly pond surveys required

Hannah Shaw, People Ponds and Water Welsh Project Officer, Freshwater Habitats Trust, is asking for volunteers to carry out PondNet dragonfly survey across North Wales. There will be one pond in each grid square to be surveyed. Please find below the list of 1km grid squares:

SH8067, SH8154, SH3238, SH4042, SH6101, SH6643, SH7232, SJ0779, SJ2352, SJ1972, SJ2168, SJ2463, SH3388, SH3964, SH4180, SH4291, SH4678, SJ3548, SJ3956.

Hannah informs me that she will send the grid reference and access details once they are available and when they are allocated for survey. The survey methodology will follow the British Dragonfly Society methodology, with one visit during May, June, July, August and September but if only one visit can be made in one of the peak months, rather than across the season, she would be most grateful for any survey data.

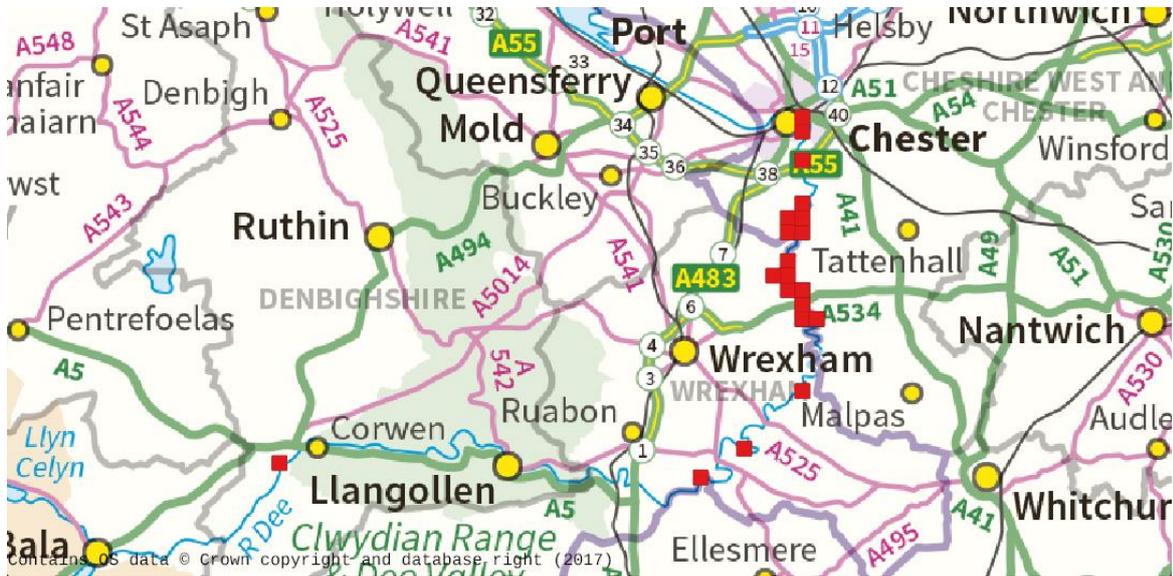
If anyone is interested in surveying a pond, please would they contact Hanna for full details: 07703 808523; www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk. Please note that competent dragonfly identification skills would be required.

It's not too late to volunteer for the River Dee Clubtail survey!

If you live near the River Dee, or its tributary Afon Clwedog, you still have the opportunity to get involved in the National Clubtail Count by surveying a monad or two looking for emerging adults and exuviae. Please contact Project Coordinator David Tompkins (david.tompkins@hotmail.co.uk) or Genevieve Dalley, Conservation Officer for the British Dragonfly Society (Genevieve.Dalley@naturalengland.org.uk) so that you may be allocated a monad or two and receive more information.

The Common Clubtail (*Gomphus vulgatissimus*) is an elusive, near-threatened species found on a limited number of slow-flowing stretches of mature, lowland rivers of southern Britain. The BDS are concerned that numbers are declining but records are patchy and often dated. We need to rectify this in order to understand the situation and act if needed. BDS are asking volunteers to join in, taking on one or more monads to survey at least 2 or 3 times between May and July, with the focus on the end of May and early June. The survey is taking place at a number of rivers across England and Wales: [click here for the Clubtail Count webpage](#) where you will find more information.

The last information I received was that the River Dee is doing rather well with more volunteers than other British rivers with the species:



River Dee catchment monad squares allocated so far are in red. There are still gaps!

Genevieve has informed me that we have had the first clubtail record of the year, a single exuvia on the Thames in Reading on the 22nd April.



An unfortunate male *Tholymis tillarga* caught recently by a skink lizard in south Luangwa Game Reserve, Zambia. Photo Alun Williams.

This crepuscular species is widespread and common throughout much of tropical Africa and Asia. It is named The Twister on account of the male's zig-zag flight low over the water looking for mates. Note the adjacent white opalescent and dark patches in the hindwings, a characteristic of the species.

Allan

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