

# Volunteer Times

Hello from the attic, Happy new year to everyone I haven't yet seen.

I hope everyone is well.

## Pizza Social/ Pre-season meeting

Wednesday 29 March

Lunch 12noon to 1pm

Meeting 1.15pm to 2.30pm at the latest



It would be great if as many people as possible could make the meeting, it's a great chance to get together and talk about what's been happening. Of course there's delicious Pizza too!

Please let me know if you can/ can't make it.

## National Plant Monitoring Scheme and FSC Spring Index



**What is it?**  
The National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS) is organised and funded by BSBI, CEH, JNCC and Plantlife. The aim is to collect data to provide an annual indication of changes in plant abundance and diversity.

**Why is it needed?**  
Thanks to volunteers, we have a very good understanding of changes in the populations of birds, butterflies and bats. Plants are the foundations of ecosystems, but currently we do not have a good measure of changes in plant populations.

**How will it work?**  
This is a scientific survey, so you will be randomly allocated a convenient 1m square to visit. The visit involves recording plant 'indicator species' in plots. Within your 10m square you will record around 5 plots.

**Who can take part?**  
Anyone interested in nature who can identify plants, or who is keen to learn. Different levels of participation ensure that all who are keen can participate: you do not have to be an experienced botanist. There will be training materials provided and the opportunity to attend workshops throughout the year.

For more information visit [www.npms.org.uk](http://www.npms.org.uk)

Partners:

**The FSC Spring Index**  
What does spring mean to you?

Here at the Field Studies Council we want to see when people notice the first indicators of spring.

Traditionally, the **Spring Equinox** marks the arrival of the season on March the 20th or 21st; but **Ecologically**, dates aren't so clear cut.

**Please get involved by sharing your observations with us!**

Recordings gathered will be combined with those sent from our other Field Study Centres across the UK to add to an ongoing dataset. This will assess whether **temperature change** influences the timing of biological events such as **flowering** or **migration** in the spring.

**FSC**  
BRINGING ENVIRONMENTAL UNDERSTANDING TO ALL

For info – I've attached information about the National Plant Monitoring Scheme and FSC Spring Index in case anyone would like to get involved (see both flyers attached).

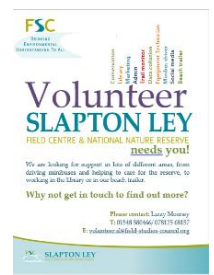
## Slapton Ley Newsletters



We are looking for people to help deliver the SLNNR Newsletters the week commencing **Monday 13 March**. We plan to visit local properties each day that week to mail drop.

Get in touch if you think you can help?

## Posters for 2017 Events



Can you help again this year! Do you know a notice board that screams out for one of our posters? Let me know if you can help.

## Beach Clean

**This Saturday 4 March, 10am to 1pm**



Free parking and ice cream or cuppa from the Start Bay Inn for all participants. What a way to spend a Saturday!

If you need me for anything, please get in touch. [lizzy.sl@field-studies-council.org](mailto:lizzy.sl@field-studies-council.org) or 580 466.