

HFRG Report 2021

While the ongoing pandemic put a dampener on some of our indoor events last year, it had a much smaller impact on our outings. The contract to survey Franchises gave us a reason to survey in the Spring, albeit in a “Covid-safe” manner and once the lockdown eased we started a group-only program which opened to the public once people became less wary of mingling with strangers.

In total, there were 35 surveys during the year, 10 of them to various parts of Franchises, 4 with the TVFG, organised by Mike and another overseas (!) - to join Colin’s group at Osborne House.

In total, approximately 1900 records covering 628 species was added to the FRDBI, with our old friend *Trametes versicolor* heading the list.

We ran 3 external educational events as a group with mixed success – the Hillier’s walks were fully booked, while the Rufus Stone outing was almost washed out and the Reptile Centre event suffered from limited publicity.

In addition, Eric lead 4 walks for other groups for which we got a contribution to our funds.

As alluded to, the Franchises survey and subsequent report occupied a considerable amount of time, which may have detracted from our own educational events and visits to other sites. Hopefully (!), 2022 will be more “normal”.

We did manage to hold a small microscope teach-in in our living room and a couple of DNA-processing tasters. Again, more things may be possible in 2022.

DNA processing has proceeded slowly but surely - by the end of 2021, over 350 samples had been amplified with about 220 of them having been sequenced including about 40 “New To Britain” or novel sequences.

Phil has done a great job of getting to grips with the website – I don’t know where we would have been without all his work. There have been several additions and improvements but more suggestions are welcome – particularly if they are accompanied by an offer to help bring them about...

Our membership has grown over the year with 41 paid-up members (plus our two honorary life members!)

The unsocial among us may have missed the success of the Facebook pages and groups Corina and DaveM have set up and I’m sure that they are one of the drivers of our increased membership.

After a long period without any reports of what was found on our surveys other than the species list, DaveS has taken on the task of writing up what we have been getting up to – so you have been warned :-)