

# HARROGATE AND DISTRICT NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

### HDNS WINTER LECTURES 2022-2023 PROGRAMME

Date	Name	Title
5 October 2022	Sophie Pinder YWT	Bringing Willow Tits back from the brink
19 October 2022	Dr Becki Lawson, FRCVS	The Garden Wildlife Health Project
2 November 2022	Ben Aston, Yorkshire Water	When is good not good enough?
16 November 2022	Kelvin Smith, HDNS	Encounters with Hares
30 November 2022	David Tipping, HDNS	A Butterfly Journey
14 December 2022	Frances Adamson	Biodiversity for Harrogate
11 January 2023	Nigel Harcourt-Brown, HDNS	Primates and other wildlife of Uganda
25 January 2023	Dr Amy-Jane Beer	Our Flow, our Wild Rivers
8 February 2023	John Mcloughlin	Birds of Outer Mongolia
22 February 2023	Edward Fullick, APHA	Wildlife Disease Surveillance in Yorkshire
8 March 2023	Tony Serjeant YDNP	Wildlife conservation in Yorkshire Dales National Park

**Venue: Friends Meeting House, 12a Queen Parade, Harrogate**

**Meeting starts at 7.30pm.**

### FARNHAM MANAGEMENT DAYS 2022-23

#### 2022

September 25

October 23

November 27

December 11

All are on SUNDAYS.

Please meet at the hide at 10am.

Further details from June 01423 885612.

#### 2023

January 15

February 19

March 19

### AUTUMN FIELD TRIPS

contact (except 5 October) Muff

Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> **Bird-watching** Hartlepool Headland and Teesmouth, self-driving.  
Start at 9.30am at the Headland Lighthouse.

Contact [mikesmithson2727@gmail.com](mailto:mikesmithson2727@gmail.com)

Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> - 10:30, all day - **Fungus Foray** with Andy Woodall

Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> - no details yet but a 2-hour trip - visit to the mine at **Greenhow**

Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> - **Christmas walk** followed by a meal, with Colin Slator, venue tba.

Full details will be posted on the website

## **Aspin Pond – Volunteers Needed**

The Friends of Aspin Pond are seeking volunteers to help with maintenance work at the site, which is a protected habitat for Great Crested Newts. Tasks are many and varied and we can always find a job to suit you. The Pond is owned by Harrogate Borough Council and is situated within easy walking distance from Knaresborough's town centre, next to the Cricket Club. There is plenty of parking close by.

The Friends also seek to promote biodiversity both at the pond and in a newly created meadow area nearby. Working parties are usually held on a monthly basis on a Tuesday afternoon. "I find it so rewarding to help at the pond in the fresh air and feel that I am doing my bit for nature" says one of our newer volunteers.

The Friends also from time to time organise social events and fundraising activities which can be great fun.

You can find more details about Aspin Pond on Facebook – Friends of Aspin Pond. Please take a look and think about volunteering. Here are our contact details:

Chair of Friends of Aspin Pond group: Sue Kitching Email: [susankitching@mail.com](mailto:susankitching@mail.com)

Please come and join us!

**Sonia Starbuck**

### **U.K. Butterfly Monitoring Scheme Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey**

My resolution for 2022 was to sign up for a UKBMS WCBS (UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey) grid square transect. My (randomly allocated) square consists of two 1 KM transect routes, each divided into 5x200m sections. The square already appeared on the WCBS map, and I asked for that location as it is Ripley and Killinghall, not too far for me to travel from Harrogate.

I've chosen Hollybank Lane in Ripley as one of the two 1 KM routes, and the other is Crag Lane. Hollybank Lane is quite heavily wooded, and as a result butterflies were present, but not in abundance. The second transect in Killinghall, mainly agricultural, initially seemed less promising, but actually proved quite interesting, despite, or perhaps because of, ending near a sewage farm!

I managed 3 visits, in May, July and August (the 2 latter months being mandatory to the survey scheme), and estimate that in total, walking the two transects (and returning on the same route!), plus travelling between sites, took me between 2 and 3 hours each time, plus journey time to the square. Of course there are stipulations about time of day, weather conditions etc - but it is not an impossible commitment of time or effort, especially once the route is set up. We are very lucky in Yorkshire to have Nick Hall as Branch Transect Co-ordinator, who will give help and advice, together with dedicated staff at Butterfly Conservation HQ.

For further information, including why this scheme is important for monitoring and data collection, please visit [yorkshirebutterflies.org.uk](http://yorkshirebutterflies.org.uk) - under 'Recording', and also [ukbms.org](http://ukbms.org)

If anyone wants further information from a newbie transect walker, do get in touch with me at [ginnidarbyshire@gmail.com](mailto:ginnidarbyshire@gmail.com) and I will try to help! **Ginni Darbyshire**

## MOTH REPORT

Jill Warwick

It has been a fantastic year for moth trapping, with many new species to add to the HDNS list. Moths have seemingly enjoyed the hot summer, some species have appeared in big numbers, with several expanding their ranges. There have so far been 14 new species of microlepidoptera recorded. The first new species in March were *Carpatolechia decorella* at Ellington Banks and galls of *Lampronia fuscata* on birch twigs at High Batts NR. An increased use of pheromone traps, not just for clearwings but for various species of tortrix moths, can attract not just the target species - *Pammene albuginana* at Sawley, *Pammene suspectana* at several sites and *Grapholita tenebrosana* at Hutton Conyers, in May and June, were all new. Teasel heads are always worth inspecting early in the year; this year some from Nosterfield NR contained larvae of the scarce *Endothenia marginana* which were bred through.

Stands of Tansy near the river at Sharow produced *Dichrorampha sedatana* and *D. petiverella*, both scarce species and not seen in our area before. *Mompha miscella* is an unusual species feeding on common rock-rose; the food plant thrives at High Batts NR and larval mines were found there. *Oegoconia quadripuncta* has expanded its range, with one at Hutton Conyers in July, but less expected at this site were two much rarer species – *Haplotinea insectella* and *Eucosma fulvana* (both needed dissection). *Phyllocnistis saligna* forms “snail track” mines on willow species, another species expanding its range, with mines found at Kirk Hammerton and near Hutton Conyers, plus an adult in the Hutton Conyers moth trap. The final new addition was *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* or Beet Moth, a species usually confined to the south of England, this year a population explosion saw large numbers further north and we had our first on 12th September.

The only new macro species was Black Arches, an attractive moth which is moving north and west in Yorkshire - one duly obliged at Hutton Conyers in August. The increased use of pheromones resulted in several new sites for Yellow-legged Clearwing (previously one old record) and good numbers of Lunar Hornet Moths, Red-tipped and Currant Clearwing. A good year for migrant species has seen numerous records of the day-flying Hummingbird Hawk-moth, whilst a Death's-head Hawk-moth larva was found just inside our boundary near Middleton Quernhow. Other rarer migrants have included Small Mottled Willow, Vestal, and both Bordered and Scarce Bordered Straw.

Fletcher's Pug was found at Hackfall Woods in 2020 (new for Yorkshire) and two trapping sessions this year recorded an amazing 17 and there is still no other known Yorkshire site. Devon Carpet, a recent colonist, has turned up in good numbers and other species expanding their ranges e.g. Maiden's Blush and Small Blood-vein, have done well.

### HDNS

### EMAIL CONTACT DETAILS

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