

# **HARROGATE AND DISTRICT NATURALISTS' SOCIETY**

## **SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022**

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I do hope that you are managing to keep well and occupied in these difficult times. It is particularly gratifying that we are seeing new members joining the Society and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you, which we would normally do at our indoor meetings. You will notice from the events calendar that we have planned a day at Farnham Gravel Pits on 2nd July at which new members will be particularly welcome as it will give you an opportunity to see how we are managing this Site of Interest for Nature Conservation, to which we are privileged to have access.

Although the Zoom meetings have been successful, we miss being able to meet face-to-face and look forward to holding our meetings indoors for the coming Winter season. We are looking for an alternative venue to St. Robert's, which was at times a little small: once we have chosen a location we will announce it on the website.

Now that we have the ability to put more information on our website, we are considering publishing seasonal articles and news there rather than as a paper newsletter. Printing and postage are increasingly costly, it is time consuming to edit and compile, and the majority of members are nowadays able to access the Internet and therefore our website. Notification will be sent by e-mail (via Richard Bion) when seasonal articles are published. Please let us know if you are unable to access the Internet: we can then explore alternative means of providing the information should there be the demand.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on 20th April. You will notice from the accompanying papers that there are already two vacant places on Council and current members are approaching or already beyond their tenure. Whilst current members are willing to stand again, we desperately need other members to join Council. Being on Council is a great way to support the Society and to contribute to its running so please do consider joining us. Just contact one of the Council members to find out more.

Another great way to contribute to the Society and wider community of naturalists is to act as a Recorder. As I have mentioned in previous Newsletters, we are now short of Recorders for Butterflies, Other Insects and Fungi. If you have a reasonable knowledge of any of these groups please help us by becoming a Recorder.

We have a busy and varied calendar of field trips for the rest of the year and a selection of fascinating talks planned for the Winter season. I look forward to meeting you at some of these events and in any event wish you an enjoyable year with Nature.

**Nick Gaunt**

### **NOT ON THE INTERNET?**

If you are unable to access the internet, please let Val Smith know (97 West End Avenue Harrogate HG2 9BU). She is compiling a mailing list for members who need paper copies of newsletters and meeting programmes.

## Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm by Zoom.  
There will be presentation by Steve Tanner on 'Wildlife of the Pantanal' after the meeting.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Last AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021
3. Council's Report 2021-2
4. Treasurer's Report 2021-2
5. Election of Officers and Council Members 2022-3
6. Any Other Business (Prior notice having been given to the Secretary by 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022)

**Notice is hereby given of the following nominations for Council to be proposed for election at the Annual General Meeting as Officers and Members of Council for 2022-3**

#### **The Retiring Officers 2021-2**

President: Nick Gaunt  
Vice President: Vacant  
General Secretary: Sue Coldwell  
Membership Secretary: Val Smith  
Programme Secretary: Ruth Upsall  
Treasurer: Lynne Gilland

#### **Council's nominations for Officers 2022-3**

President: Nick Gaunt  
Vice President: Vacant  
General Secretary: Sue Coldwell  
Membership Secretary: Val Smith  
Programme Secretary: Ruth Upsall  
Treasurer: Lynne Gilland

#### **Retiring Members of Council: 2021-2**

Kerry Morrison  
Nigel Harcourt-Brown  
Kevin Walker

#### **Council's nominations, Members of Council 2022-3**

Kerry Morrison  
Nigel Harcourt-Brown  
Kevin Walker

### **New Bird Feeding Station at Farnham Gravel Pit**

Following the closure of the site during the pandemic and a winter of little attention the feeding station had fallen into disrepair. For many years June Atkinson has maintained the station but it was on sloping ground which posed a significant risk of slips when waterlogged and slippery. In autumn 2021 the feeders were repositioned and refurbished by some of the management team and Paul Birtwhistle and we were ready to see what would visit. Gradually a variety of birds returned, some RSPB Red Listed needing all the help they can get. Paul topped up the feeders daily and photographed the birds. These can be seen on the HDNS website's Sighting Page.

We are now very pleased to announce that Joan McClean has offered to sponsor the feeding station in memory of her late husband, Jack. Many will remember Jack and his obituary can be read in the 2020 Annual Report. Jack loved natural history in all its forms and was a very active HDNS member, working as part of the Farnham Management Team for many years. Joan was also General Secretary for 8 years. Both Joan and Jack were given life membership in recognition of their contribution to the Society. Joan's generous donation will enable the feeding station to develop and run for many years to come and allow members to enjoy it as we know Jack would have done. We are very grateful to Joan and it is wonderful to be able to assist the birds to feed up over the winter months.

Members who would like to visit FGP and have not yet got a key, please contact a member of council, to arrange a visit.

Many thanks to Paul for being so enthusiastic in setting up the station and many thanks to Joan for ensuring its future, in Jack's name, for years to come.

## 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 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	Shirelle Hawkins, HBC Education Officer	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 Mccloughlin	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

## BOTANICAL FIELD TRIP PROGRAMME

Date	Venue	Meeting Details	Leader	Targets	Contact
Tues 19 April	Aubert Ings SSSI	1:00pm at the little car park outside Cattal, SE448539	Muff & Kerry	Wild tulips, Fritillaries, other spring flowers	Muff
Mon 16 May	YWT Grass Wood	10:30 in small quarry car park, SD985651. Share cars if possible	Bruce Brown, Bradford Botany Group	Flowers of ancient woodland	Kerry
Sun 5 June	Ballowfield LNR, am, Ashes Pasture YWT pm	10:30 at Ballowfield SD987897 or 1:00pm at layby SD770788, walk down the road to Ashes reserve gate, SD776784	Muff & Kerry	Ballowfield: Spring Sandwort, Moonwort, Thrift... Ashes: orchids, Globeflower and much more	Muff
Sun 12 June	Spring Wood, Nidd Gorge	1:00pm, park at end of lane opposite Harrogate Golf Course (share cars if possible) SE333572	Kevin Walker, BSBI	Limestone springs -Toothwort, orchids, lime trees, unusual ferns – ‘lots of nice species’	Kerry
Tues 28 June	Malham Tarn	10:30 at outflow (Water Sinks) car park SD894657	Judith Allinson, Craven Conservation Group	Wetland plants	Muff
Sat 2 July	Farnham Gravel Pit	10:00 (morning only)	Informal	A morning walk round Farnham – a special welcome to new members, gate manned so no key needed	Kerry
Sat 9 July	Hackfall	Meet in Grewelthorpe village near church, 10:30 SE230764 Later drive to Mickley Wood	Kevin Walker, BSBI	Tufa springs, Green-flowered Helleborine, Common Wintergreen, Large-leaved Lime, Thin-spiked Wood-sedge, Wood Fescue	Muff
Fri 12 August	YWT Strensall Common	10:30 at YWT car park SE647615	Martin Hammond, wetland ecologist	Many heathland and aquatic plants, dragonflies	Kerry
Autumn TBA	TBA	TBA	Andy Woodall, Midland Fungus Group	Fungi	Muff
Autumn TBA	Greenhow lead mines	TBA	Richard Clayton, mine manager	Underground visit!	Muff

**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL** Year beginning **1 April 2022**

**Note:** if you pay your subscription by standing order, you will see an asterisk next to your name on the address label of this newsletter.

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POSTCODE.....

Individual £20  Joint/Family £30

**BIRD REPORT 2021** Collected £5  Posted £6.50

Cheques payable to Harrogate & District Naturalists' Society  
Send to: Ms Val Smith 97 West End Avenue Harrogate HG2 9BU

You can also pay by Bank transfer:

Account name: Harrogate & District Naturalists' Society  
Yorkshire Bank plc Harrogate Branch  
Sort Code: 05-05-45 Account number: 33786400

If you choose this method of payment, would you please inform the membership secretary, Val Smith ([memsec.hdns1@talktalk.net](mailto:memsec.hdns1@talktalk.net)) so that she can send your membership card.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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**Equipment for sale**

Conrad Plowman

Email [con1702@gmail.com](mailto:con1702@gmail.com)

I have for sale an Opticron Classic IF Mk 11 spotting scope with 22-47 mag telephoto lens. Water resistant cover, tripod, monopod, fitting for ledge. Excellent condition. Going cheap to good home. Any offers/can be seen in Knaresborough.