



Registered Charity No 701627

Summer 2017

Holderness Countryside



Greeting Gannets.....Freddy

Journal of the South Holderness Countryside Society

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No 129 Free to members. Available to non-members for a minimum donation of £1.50

South Holderness Countryside Society Year End Reports for 2016

Introduction

This has been a somewhat difficult year for the administration of the Society. Our treasurer found that he had to resign his position for personal reasons, leaving our acting Chairman to take on this task. This along with acting as general secretary left Peter with a colossal work load. The Executive committee during this period composed of Peter Cook; acting Chair; Treasurer, and general secretary. The committee members were Fred Kennedy, Peter Martin, David Constantine, Jeff Marshall, and Andy Mason.

The work of the Society continued with the reserves being maintained, grants etc applied for and of course, all the official and sometimes over complicated applications and reports completed. The committee fulfilled it's tasks but, at times due to illness or otherwise unavoidable absenteeism, the basic requirements of a quorum were only just achieved. The SHCS was in dire need of new and energetic committee members, which struggled at times even until well into the new 2017 year. Requests were circulated to the membership but so far with negative results.

It was actually after the official SHCS financial year end that we had our first newcomer to join the committee, and Terry Lount was co-opted, later to be officially enrolled at the AGM in June 2017. Tracey Netherton, an enthusiastic helper for some time past with the Young Nats club also joined the executive.. We were beginning to think that here was the nucleus of a new committee. But we still didn't have a full, younger, more energetic, forward thinking group of people with new ideas, and are, even now hoping for more people to come and help with the running of the Society. Half of the committee are seventy plus years of age, and we don't know how much longer we can keep going.

We have our new committee now comprising Margaret Kennedy as acting Chair, Peter Cook, treasurer; with Jeff Marshall, Andy Mason, David Constantine, Terry Lount, and Tracey Netherton. Fred Kennedy takes up his old position as general secretary.

Meanwhile, the finances of the society are at a fairly reasonable level, and we were delighted to receive an offer of a small parcel of land not very far from the Ivy house Centre. Negotiations are on going at the time of writing. After all, we were donated money from a variety of sources in order to purchase land, and develop Nature Reserves, which means, that owing to the fact that we hold Charitable Status, we were required to spend the money for the purpose for which it was donated. We had looked at several parcels of land in the past, but all failed to come up to even the basic requirements we needed to be able to turn them into anything like a Nature Reserve.

For some time now, we had found that our Society website was out of date. It badly needed a whole new set-up. Up to date information, pictures, forthcoming attractions etc. - a means by which the general public could be kept informed of our activities. Even though the Society has been in being for over thirty years, we are still not known even locally. Our new website www.holdernesscountryside.org is even at this present time being developed and gradually filled with information about the Society. Our new web mistress, Claire Ashton has really got the bitt between her teeth and is doing a fine job.

The Young Nats Club is an on-going autonomous part of the Society. With it's own finances and it's own organisation within the SHCS. Developed and run by Margaret Kennedy and her team, we hope that we have instilled some measure of understanding about the wonderful world of Nature. We are able to accept a few more children of Primary school age into this club. Over the six years of the club's existence we have had quite a few budding naturalists in our care. We would like to see more.

Holderness Countryside is your journal send us your contributions, however small.
Ask your friends to join our Society, and above all, keep in touch.

F. Kennedy (Gen Sec)

Chairman's Report, 2017

Four years ago my second six-year term of office expired and after a year of rest I accepted re-election as Chairman, stipulating that this must be for three years only. Due to a continuum of personal problems I have struggled at times to keep things moving despite the loyal help and support of fellow committee members. Unfortunately, I begin this year with a new set of problems and this AGM really must be my last as Chairman. I've also been the Treasurer since Steve Moore had to step aside. Hopefully you will let me step aside now and carry on as a member of the Executive Committee giving all the help and support, when and if I can.

The Society has lost several members over the last 12 months – Don Stanford, Stan Cook, Ray Eades, Norman Sergeant and Sheila Bowers have sadly died and a few others have moved home and not renewed their membership. Others have had to take time out due to personal problems and we thank them for their continued support.

We have been very concerned about the declining attendance at our open meetings and have tried to rectify this. We are looking at other ways of delivering interest to members but it seems that most people are content to simply subscribe to us in the knowledge and confidence that we are doing what we are supposed to do. I hope that returned questionnaires will give us some pointers on how we can better cater for you but the plain fact remains that we are going to have to change radically. The work and heartbreak involved in closing down the Society should we become totally dysfunctional is greater than in forcing change. Change it must be while we have the support of its membership and the resources to do so.

Our successful Young Nats group led by Margaret has started to feel the squeeze with fewer members on board this year. An attractive programme of events has been planned to help retain our Young Nats and stimulate wider interest. The website is currently being re-constructed by Claire Ashton and we hope that more people will contribute observations and photographs on the gallery. With a generous donation from The Sir James Reckitt Charitable Trust we have invested in a new laptop computer to enable better linkage with our projector so that we can deliver talks about the Society to other groups. We have invested in laser toners for the printing machine generously donated by Centrica and now have our own capacity to produce leaflets, posters and publications to promote the Society and what we are for. Never before has this Society been better equipped with its own resources and we should be able to move onwards without drawing on the generosity of members.

We have welcomed some new people onto the team recently – Terry, Claire, Tracey and Richard, and also Fred back in the capacity of General Secretary. We look forward to working together. The Society cannot succeed, indeed continue, without busy people. Much is being achieved by few but we need yet more people willing and capable of doing, and we continue to try. Peter Martin is working on Primary-age schools as a renewed effort. I am hoping to speak (yet again) to youth groups and colleges from the start of the new academic year. The Society also has opportunity to do exactly what we are supposed to do – acquire land to create a better place for wildlife. More of this later. Like Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve before it, this new venture, which has yet to be decided upon, must also be used to put the Society back in the news and draw new people both into the fold and into the field doing practical conservation work. The last time we endeavoured to buy land we had no money and an offer of a couple of biodiversity-barren wheatfields. We said yes, raised money, drew up a management plan and we now have a nature reserve that it is a designated wildlife site attracting substantial income under agrienvironmental stewardship. Importantly it is one of the region's hotspots for biodiversity.

Without a massive increase in interest and help, all this could so easily be lost.

Treasurer's Report

This is for the period 01 February 2016 to 31 January 2017

Income

As usual, membership subscriptions and generous donations made up the backbone of income with a total of £2082 including Gift Aid. This was slightly less than last year due to the demise of a few members. General fundraising was higher than last year at £494, due largely to a more profitable open day at Ivy House. However, fundraising by Young Nats was lower but is nothing to worry about.

Countryside Stewardship payments for maintenance of Hollym Carrs was about £1200 higher due to a new agreement kicking in to replace the old Entry Level Scheme. Note that the word maintenance here means keeping the land out of agricultural production. It does not mean that we have to use the money to the penny on management of the reserve to the potential detriment of its wildlife. We were grateful to receive a surprise donation of £1000 from the Tottle Trust as well as £1500 from the Sir James Reckitt Charity Trust, given specifically for IT equipment. This was additional to £600 from the same source for general running costs and £30 from the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland for use of Ivy House for an afternoon. Total receipts for the year were £9108 and we were owed £2892.10 by the Rural Payments Agency to cover the conservation project capital costs we had incurred on Hollym Carrs.

Payments

Fund raising and general Society activities is a broad category for payments that cannot be put anywhere else such as hire of tables for events, hire of Patrington Church Hall and speakers' fees. Services and administration includes journal production and distribution and Membership Secretary's expenses. Ivy House Costs are electricity and water. In each case these were significantly lower than last year but, be warned, some of these bills did not come in until after the year end so these will show as higher costs in 2017.

Young Naturalists' outgoings were slightly higher this year but the section as a whole is financially self-sustaining.

Conservation Projects were exclusively pond restoration and erection of bird boxes on Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve in compliance with Higher Level Stewardship. The capital allowance for this was £2892 and we only spent £2280. For such heavy work we have to engage contractors. The bottom line therefore is a net surplus of £3676 compared to a net loss last year of £612. The difference is rather better than this as we were owed the HLS Capital Allowance of £2892. We go forward into 2017 with an Unrestricted Fund of £41,552.

The Restricted Fund of £7586 is money set aside that has been donated with the stated purpose, or transferred from Net Surpluses, for the purchase of land for nature conservation. We have not made such transfers during the period of expenditure on the restoration of Ivy House but we do now have resources in the Unrestricted Fund that could now be transferred, or utilized.

Finally, the donation of £1500 from the Sir James Reckitt Charitable Trust was not spent in the financial year covered by this report but expenditure is now underway with investment in a laptop computer to drive the projector, on laser printer toners to age-proof our laser printer facilities, spare bulb unit for the projector and generally raise us up into an age of self-reliance.

South Holderness Countryside Society
Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2017
Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total £	Previous Year £
Receipts				
Member Subscriptions	974	-	974	1,030
Gift Aid	386	-	386	380
Countryside Stewardship	2,872	-	2,872	1,685
Fundraising - General	494	-	494	243
Fundraising - Ivy House	-	-	-	-
Fundraising - Young Naturalists	194	-	194	633
Meeting fees - Young Naturalists	118	-	118	170
Member Donations	722	-	722	772
Interest	64	-	64	45
Grants and Donations	3,130	-	3,130	1,695
Wayleave	154	-	154	-
Total Receipts	9,108	-	9,108	6,653
Payments				
Fundraising and Society Activities	308	-	308	1,722
Services and Administration	1,828	-	1,828	2,320
Ivy House Costs	352	-	352	582
Young Naturalists Payments	664	-	664	516
Conservation Projects	2,280	-	2,280	2,125
Total Payments	5,432	-	5,432	7,265
Net Surplus for Year	3,676	-	3,676	(612)
Cash and Bank Accounts				
Brought forward	37,876	7,586	45,462	46,074
Carried forward	41,552	7,586	49,138	45,462

And Finally

The new 2017 year will bring some changes. Our acting Chairman must retire having served for the time for which he promised. New faces, hopefully, will be sufficiently interested to want to serve our cause. Some people who have already served for many years are being asked to return, and, the general membership will be asked some searching questions at a future meeting. In order to survive, we must have more young, fit, and active members to take their place in the running of the Society which has been in being now for over thirty years. Is all that effort, all that hard work, on the reserves, on computers at home raising funding, organising events, slide shows, etc and all the other tasks which have been quietly carried out in the background; is it all to be wasted because no one can spare a couple of hours per month to keep our Society in being. Why not offer your services, your expertise. Then you can say to your grandchildren, "I was there. I helped to create that".

Beacon Lagoons Reserve Report, 2017

The Beacon Lagoons area was subjected to detailed vegetation mapping as part of a coastal habitat monitoring scheme covering ecologically sensitive areas between Bempton and Kilnsea. Areas mapped on the ground are being photographed so that changes over time can be monitored.

The Little Tern Breeding colony was again managed by the Spurn Bird Observatory and breeding success in the 2016 season was poor due to bad weather. Beacon Field, leased to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, continues to be managed within the Kilnsea Wetland project.

Natural England is pursuing the concept of the National Coastal Pathway and it is recognised that there would be issues of disturbance and unwanted access onto this sensitive, protected area if the proposal goes ahead. A preferred route is yet to be agreed upon, however, land seaward to the pathway would have freedom of access which is seen as beneficial to some people, and adverse to others. For the Society there may also be complex health and safety and Disabled Discrimination Act implications which will have to be resolved.

Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve Report, 2017

Further to receiving the report of a great crested newt survey by Wold Ecology Ltd early in 2016, pond improvements on an impressive scale were carried out in Autumn and subsequently approved by Natural England. All 5 ponds underwent some degree of edge re-profiling and reed removal to re-open water surface and a new pond was created. The new pond was recommended to provide breeding newts with a water column free from fish during the breeding season. It was excavated to a design that should dry out to prevent the establishment of stickleback populations. It very quickly filled with water and we are hopeful that it will dry out by the end of September at which time its design will be re-assessed..

This work was funded by Environmental Stewardship payments from the Rural Payments Agency and the work was approved by Natural England. Other work included installation of owl and tree sparrow boxes. The Burnham Meadow was again harvested for hay by the Fisher family and we are grateful for their continued help.

The Young Naturalists Club

This year saw some major reductions in the number of young people attending the club. Two of our most senior young ladies now attaining their early teens became more involved with advanced work at school together with extra curricular activities. Even so, these two "advanced" members still keep in touch so we haven't lost them altogether. Later in the year our young man had to leave when his parents were transferred to another country for their work. This same young man had been awarded a prize from his school for his knowledge of Natural History, learned during his attendance at the Young Nats club. Amongst the remaining members, we seem to have a budding botanist and our youngest member has a lively interest in Nature and especially the "mini beasts"

A full programme was enjoyed during the year with the young members now having their say in what they would like to study. They certainly keep the club leaders on the hop.

Margaret continues to research and plan interesting meetings both indoor and outdoor for the members and this coming year will be no exception.

We are now actively looking for new members. Young people of primary school age with an interest in Natural History. The club has proved its worth and we hope that we have encouraged a future generation who will help to look after this wonderful world of ours.

**Minutes of the South Holderness Countryside Society's Annual General Meeting
which took place at the Patrington Church Rooms at 7.30pm on May 12th 2017-
05-14**

There were 18 people present

- 1.....Apologies for Absence...Our acting Chairman (PJC) had received 8 apologies
- 2.....Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM
Margaret Kennedy proposed acceptance of the minutes...
Seconded by Jeff Marshall AIF
- 3.....Matters arising from those minutes
None had been notified
- 4....Adoption of the Annual Report for 2016
At the time of the 2016 AGM the Society did not have a General Secretary to
produce an annual report.
Acceptance was proposed by Pauline Bursell and seconded by Jeff Marshall AIF
- 5.....Treasurer's Report
The acting Treasurer (PJC) read his report explaining the various incomes and
Expenditures. Making especial mention of the generous grants from the James Reckitt charity and
Centrica The report is to be published in "Holderness Countryside"
Acceptance was proposed by Andy Mason and seconded by Steve Moore...AIF
- 6....Appointment of Auditor
Steve Morgan was again nominated as our Auditor. Proposed by Andy Mason
Seconded by Jeff Marshall.....AIF
- 7.....Appointment of Officers
There were no nominations for Chairman
Margaret Kennedy was nominated as acting Vice Chair (on a temporary basis)
Proposed by Fred Kennedy Seconded by Nora Garton..... AIF
Peter Cook had taken on the post of Treasurer and was officially nominated
to retain that post by Fred Kennedy and seconded by Jeff Marshall.....AIF
Fred Kennedy was nominated to once again take on the job of General Secretary
Proposed by Margaret Kennedy and Seconded by Nora Garton..... AIF

Appointment of ordinary committee members

Tracey Netherton was nominated by F, Kennedy and Seconded by Margaret Kennedy
Terry Lount was nominated by Margaret Kennedy and seconded by Margaret Moulds
Both were accepted AIF

Jeff Marshall, David Constantine, Andy Mason Peter Martin all retain their
Position as ordinary committee members by right.

FK proposed a vote of thanks to Peter Cook for all the work he has carried out for the Society AIF

MK explained that there would be a very brief meeting of the whole committee immediately after the
AGM. She further said that the Young Nat's leaders had the problem of reduced membership of the
YN in hand and had already approached 5 schools. She also said that the YN leaders would always deal
with the membership of the YN club and did not require "outside assistance"

The next AGM will be on Friday May 11th 2018

At a special full committee meeting (DC absent) MK proposed a meeting of the full committee at the Ivy
House Centre on Wednesday May 17th 2017 at 4.00pm specifically to discuss and organise the formation
of various sub committees in order to reduce the work load of committee members.

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Nat-Craft!



Nature-Nats!



Ivy House Recycle and Reuse Project

The challenge when working for a countryside charity is to remember:

- It's the countryside – not your own back garden
- The land is under the care of a charity – they have objectives to meet and tight budgets
- It's really hard work!! Digging/pruning/scraping/painting/nettles!!!

However, with a little 'out of the box' thinking it's amazing what can be done. The Young Nats have been working on an RSPB award that



encourages recycling and reusing – rather than using the local dump. Taking inspiration from this we came up with a butterfly and bug corner, amongst other things. SHCS members who have visited Ivy House will remember the 'greenhouse' hard-core area. So hard-core even a pick axe

wouldn't break through. Well, with perseverance, we unearthed a broken up butler's sink, roof tiles, cobbles and house bricks.



Once the ground had been cleared to a reasonable depth

the basic outline was laid out using pieces of 3x3, which are used by transport companies to separate pallets, and were donated instead of



being tipped. When the double layer had been put together a good coat of preservative was put on. We want to make sure it can last through a wet East Riding spring/summer/ autumn/winter! You get the picture! The weed sheet underneath and the leftover decking planks completed the basics and we were ready to fill it.

Almost the last batch of unsafe Leylandii, that needed to be removed for safety from the grounds of Ivy House, were chopped up into a pile and were regularly used to mark out the pathways through the woodland. The Young Nat's used some of this pile to fill the new Bug and Butterfly area.



The mulch is full to the brim with worms, beetles, earwigs: a veritable feast for the robin seen busily pecking away at it a short while later.



Leftover pieces of 3x3 were used to make an area suitable to plant a shrub of the Ceanothus family; popular with both butterflies and bees.



Flowering plants were carefully chosen for the donated wooden trough and will hopefully encourage more butterflies and bees right across the summer months; these include Michaelmas daisies, Aubretia and Alyssum. These hardy little plants, the latter two not minding hardy or dry conditions, will have competition for their favours. At the moment the butterflies and bees have competition from local deer, seen visiting Ivy House to nibble buds for their breakfast each day!

My trip to Bempton Cliffs

On Saturday 20th May, we all went on a coach, at 8:30 am. Me and my family went to several of the bird viewpoints including New Rott-up and Mosey downgate. We saw many birds including:

- Kittiwake. It is easily recognised by its call kit-EE-waytee. & we also

Saw:

- 3 or 4 Puffins with their huge bill of blue, yellow and red.

Later on, we all met up back at the cafe, where we had lunch.



Charley Carter

Saturday 20th May saw a very early start for our Young Nats. A hot bus trip took us all north to Bempton Cliffs to see the thousands of seabirds all nesting on the tiny ledges and rough cracks in the cliffs. A beautiful but slightly windy day enjoyed by everyone. These are just a few of the birds watched from the cliff top.

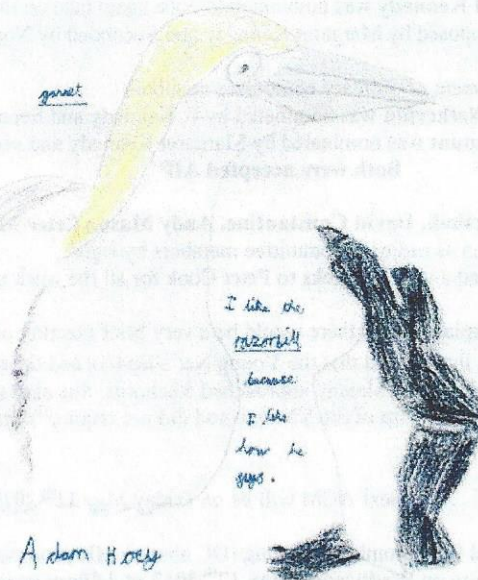
puffin



My trip to Bempton Cliffs

My favourite sea bird is gannet and razorbill. I like the gannet because he has a yellow head and he has the biggest wing span.

gannet



I like the razorbill because I like how he sits.

Adam Hoyle

SUMMER TWILIGHT.

I stoop to pluck a dandelion
Bereft of all its gold,
If I gently blow the head of seeds
It will depict the time, I'm told.
One o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock, four
I blow the dandelion seeds some more.
Five o'clock, six o'clock, seven o'clock, eight
There they fly over the farmyard gate.

Off to settle in pastures new.
Some gardeners gaining a headache or two.
Many will fail along the way
Much in keeping with Nature's say.
Such is life where some fate better
Nature's in control
And we... just let her.

Through winter's dark they quietly lay
Until springtime, magic sets them on their way.
Then golden heads again stand proud
Until autumns cool sets, the seed head shroud.

With Nature's, clock primed and ready to fly
The first puff of wind sends the parachutes high.
One o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock, four
I blow the dandelion seeds some more...

GILL HART.

PUBLICATIONS

Holderness Countryside is the journal of the South Holderness Countryside Society, and is issued free of charge to members, up to four times per year. All Rights Reserved.

Items for publication may be e-mailed to the Editor (brian.gill60@btinternet.com). Please ring the editor to discuss items in manuscript. The Society welcomes articles of general interest in the genre of natural and social history pertaining to southern Holderness. These must have educational value under the terms of our Charitable Objectives (see below). The views expressed are those of the contributor. Contributions are acknowledged along with the relevant articles. Other publications may be produced from time-to-time.

YOUNG NATURALISTS CLUB

The Young Naturalists' ("Young Nats") Club meets twice monthly at our Ivy House Centre in Hollym. Supervisors have Enhanced DBS certification.

Members must be of primary school age, 5-11 years. Young Nats are taught and encouraged to take a more positive interest in natural history and to publish articles in *Holderness Countryside*. Articles should be sent to the Editor via E-mail or, a telephone call to organise collection.

SCHOOLS

Copies of *Holderness Countryside* are distributed to local schools. Schools are permitted to photocopy extracts from the Journal for educational use within their school. All other reproduction in whatever form is subject to copyright.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Adult: £12. Family: £14.

Corporate membership will be considered.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

The South Holderness Countryside Society was first registered as a Charity No 701627 on 30th May 1989. Defined objectives of the Charity are;

(1) *Work principally within the area of Holderness, (East Riding of Yorkshire), for the region's natural and local history.*

(2) *Educate the public in the natural and local history of the area.*

(3) *Secure the preservation and protection and improvement of natural history.*

Management of the Society's affairs is by elected Trustees.

The restoration of Ivy House, Our Headquarters, was part-funded by the National Lottery.



LOTTERY FUNDED

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Position	Name	Telephone
Chairman (Vacant)	--	--
Vice Chairman	Margaret Kennedy	01964 671492
General Secretary	Fred Kennedy	01964 671492
Treasurer & Elected Member	Peter Cook	01964 614466
Journal Editor	Gill Hart	01964 671499
Elected Member	Andrew Mason	01482 817835
Elected Member	Jeffrey Marshall	01964 630045
Elected Member	David Constantine	01964 631354
Elected Member	Terry Lount	01964 604307
Elected Member	Tracey Netherton	01964 623261

Our WEBSITE:

www.holdernesscountryside.org

is managed by Mrs Claire Ashton:

Please keep this site alive!

ClaireLouiseAshton@hotmail.com

E-mail contacts:

ViceChairman/Secretary:

scruffeighteen@talktalk.net

Treasurer: chess4reach@aol.com

Editor: brian.gill60@btinternet.com



JULY 26th - 11am meet- BOTANICAL DAY at ALLERTHORPE COMMON.

An intensive recording session with opportunity to learn plant identification skills and recording techniques with local experts. You are invited to join a team working on the 20 year long plant atlas project. Enter <http://www.middleton12.karoo.net/programme.htm> in your browser for more details and contact Peter 01964 614466 to book your place. Please note that places are limited to 5 and there will be a long walk over rough terrain.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

Unless otherwise stated the venue is Patrington Church Hall at 7.30pm.

The hall is situated behind the HOLDERNESS INN on HIGH STREET.

Alternative access can be gained via NORTHSIDE COURT but car parking limited.