



Registered Charity No 701627

Spring 2018

Holderness Countryside



Spring beauty at home in the snowFreddy

Journal of the South Holderness Countryside Society

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No 131 - Free to members. Available to non-members for a minimum donation of £1.50

From the Chair

This year was somewhat different from the point of the administration of the Society. It had been decided, in committee that too much work was falling onto too few shoulders. I don't think the general membership realises just how much is done in the background to keep an organisation such as ours ticking over. When the South Holderness Countryside Society was in its infancy, there were twelve people on the executive committee. All having their input of ideas. All taking part either in an administrative capacity or physically assisting with the practical work of managing our Reserves under the guidance of our Conservation Projects Officer. Now, of course we are reduced to eight members, who were asked to form sub committees, working more or less independently, each with a task to carry out. Up to a point, this system has not worked entirely as it should have. Tasks which should have been carried out by a sub committee were not done, pressing more work onto the hard pressed executive of the acting Chair, the Treasurer, and the General Secretary. This state of affairs must change. . If anything were to happen to any one of these three, who would take on the job of running the Society?

We had some "new blood" with new ideas joining the committee this year in the form of Tracey Netherton, and already, she has taken on some of the tasks which others should have carried out. She is a welcome addition on the team with new ideas and a new burst of energy. We need more younger people like Tracey and the two young helpers she has found. The original team have done their bit for more than thirty years. Most of the hard work is now over, a thing of the past. We have new challenges now. How to keep our Society functioning, to enrol more new, younger members who are interested in our cause. To take some of the weight from us old fogies.

Notwithstanding our difficulties, the SHCS purchased a new piece of land some five hundred metres from our headquarters at Ivy House in Hollym. Large amounts of our monetary reserve was donated to us for a particular reason, to purchase land and build Nature Reserves. After many attempts, searching for suitable, and affordable places, we were offered Toffling Field by an ex member of the Society (Dr Jan Crowther, who has since re-joined the society as a member) This small area had been nurtured as a Nature Reserve over several years by Dr Jan and her late husband, so it was eminently suitable for our society to take it on. It will still require some work, especially on the pond area if young people are to visit. Peter had already commenced a series of botanical surveys, and some planting is envisaged. We are hoping that as this new Reserve is within easy walking distance from Ivy House, more of our members, and other groups would find it an ideal place to visit. To leave their vehicle at IHC and meander down South Carr Dales Road through pleasant countryside to spend an afternoon with Nature at Toffling Field.

More additions are planned for the future. We are to purchase a ride-on mowing machine, and the general secretary is looking into the purchase of a suitable "garage" in which to house it and keep it safe. I have an outdoor trip planned, (many thanks to Andy Mason) A Safari to Spurn and a visit to the lighthouse on a special four wheel drive vehicle called a "Unimog", which, so far has engendered quite a bit of interest . The Society's Young Naturalists have already had a visit such as this in the past and thoroughly enjoyed it. We will see if such events are to become a regular item in our programme.

The work of the SHCS will carry on. Those of us who are deeply involved would not like to see the society die... I ask you, therefore, to keep in touch with your committee. All our contact details are in the Journal. Why not write an article of your own and have it published. We like to hear your views. Tell your friends what our Society had achieved. Spread the word.

I hope to meet more of you at our various meetings.

Margaret Kennedy (Acting Chair)

South Holderness Countryside Society Annual Report for 2017

A busy year for those few who keep the Society running smoothly. Even though the reserves have been established for upwards of thirty years, there still remains a number of necessary tasks to keep our "wild" places from becoming too "wild"

The Hollym Carrs Nature reserve continues to mature nicely, requiring little, but at the same time necessary works to mow open glades and pathways even though the overhead tree canopy has had the effect of somewhat reducing this task in some places. Some work on the ponds was carried out and a special area was excavated in order to deliberately make a shallow pond which would dry out in the summer.

Our Beacon Lagoons area near Kilnsea, now partially an extension of the East Coast Wetlands area, maintained in the most part by members of the YWT, English Nature, and the Spurn Bird group continues to be developed. A new hide is being spoken about for which the SHCS has promised a substantial amount of money towards its construction. (The money gained as a result of an insurance payment after the total destruction of the old hide some time ago by tidal inundation.

Our Headquarters and its attached woodland at the Ivy House Centre in Hollym has had the benefit, this year of Richard's work to maintain the grounds etc, thus taking at least some of the work load from Peter's shoulders. He still has a lot to learn, but at least, for the time being, he has the support of Peter's expert advice.

Within this building, of course, are held the regular meetings of the Young Naturalists Club for children of primary school age who, under Margaret's tuition, with help from Tracey, has seen some of our Young hopefuls attain their RSPB Bronze, and their Silver awards. This next year, 2018, should see our "veterans" (9 and 10 year olds) trying to achieve "Gold".

Some twenty-six children have, to date, gained, and we hope, remembered, at least a basic understanding of Nature, and we trust that this knowledge and respect will stay with them in their later years. We are hopeful that Charly will become a botanist, to follow in Peter's shoes, and that Adam has all the makings of an entomologist of the future.

Over the 2017 year, negotiations have taken place for the purchase of another piece of land called Toffling Hill. This is situated some five hundred metres from our Ivy House headquarters. The deal was finalised a short time ago, fulfilling our promise to our benefactors who donated funds to us for the specific purpose of attaining land on which to build Nature Reserves. This 1.8 acre plot had already been nurtured by its previous owners over about seven years to start to convert this small patch into a place for Nature. Already, Peter has undertaken detailed surveys of the area and a small party of volunteers has planted fifty "bee friendly" Hazel saplings. The start of more to come. This place has such a biodiversity of growth that it should be an ideal place in the future for the study of Natural History. For the budding biologists of the future, perhaps.

There is work to be carried out. The pond area, for instance, requires some major re designing, for at present its steep sides are not very "Child friendly"

The Executive continues with Margaret as acting Chair, Peter as Treasurer, with Tracey, Andy, Jeff, David and Terry as ordinary members. Freddy maintains his position as General Secretary (otherwise known as dogs-body)

Once again, I ask for people to join the committee. It is not a hard job and what we have achieved over the thirty-odd years of our existence has been very worthwhile. But many of us are approaching our 80th year. We need Younger people with new ideas. We do not want our society to die.

Gen Sec

Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve, Annual report 2017

General

Another year has passed and the reserve is nicely maturing. The canopy in the woodland is developing to the point where some footpaths hardly need any cutting and we are getting a much darker atmosphere inside the wood. The meadows still provide the open aspect to the reserve with a variety of flowering plants. Work on the renovation and creation of new wetlands has really enhanced the site too. The new pond has begun to establish and held water during the summer months. I have not been able to get down as often as I would have liked due to work commitments, but when I get there it is wonderful to see the effects of all the hard work put in by so many people over the years.

Management

The wetland enhancement work has increased this valuable habitat on the reserve. This was paid for by our Higher Level Stewardship Scheme administered by Peter Cook. It is amazing the effect of making some "wet 'oles" in Holderness as this is what the place used to be like before drainage etc.

The meadow was cut and baled for hay in July by Paul Fisher and co. Some bales were left behind to form refuges for grass snakes and other wildlife.

I placed 12 tree sparrow boxes in groups to encourage these declining birds to breed. When they were checked in November 2017, 10 out of 12 had been used but we are not sure how many succeeded.

Apart from some light pruning/strimming of the footpaths, reserve management has been a light touch.

Overall it has been a year of consolidation and gentle growth. I like to think of Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve as a place where things slow down and relax into that natural pace we seem to have forgotten in our hectic modern lives.

Andy Mason

Beacon Lagoons Nature Reserve Annual Report 2017

The Little Tern colony continued to be managed by Spurn Bird Observatory with a steering group including representatives from partner organisations Environment Agency, Natural England, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and SHCS. The Little Tern Protection Scheme received funding from the EU Life + Little Tern Recovery Project, in its fourth of five years, and from the Environment Agency. This allowed the employment of wardens Dan Woollard and Mick Turton in addition to covering ongoing costs such as electric fence maintenance. Practical support was provided by RSPB (staff and volunteers from RSPB Old Moor who helped erect the electric fence) and YWT (transporting heavy batteries using their 4x4 truck). The replacement of some strainer posts was carried out by Tony Cook Ltd. Practical wardening support was given by at least six volunteers.

A promising start to the breeding season gave cause for optimism but, unfortunately, progress was disrupted by two significant events. By 26 June there were 49 nests but about 17 of these were washed out when the colony was inundated by high tides during a period of Force 7 north-easterly winds starting on 28th. The colony appeared to have recovered well with 27 chicks being ringed in July. However, a problem with the battery charger reduced the effectiveness of the electric fence and a number of chicks were taken by a fox which got in to the colony. A Short-eared Owl was also seen around the colony at the same time and may have taken some birds.

The total number of Little Tern chicks that fledged in 2017 was 14 which represented 0.29 chicks per pair. This is relatively low when compared with the five year average of 0.86 chicks per pair but the count of 130 adult birds on 2 July was the highest since 2006.

The tern rafts, which had not been out for the 2016 breeding season, were repositioned near the tern colony in April in order to possibly attract nesting Little Terns. They were occupied by Avocets the next day! 14 pairs of Avocets fledged 7 young.

The reserve is important for two other breeding wader species. Ringed Plovers had a very successful year with all nineteen young from 6 pairs fledging, although another 5 pairs failed. There were 7 pairs of Oystercatchers on the reserve but they only managed to fledge 4 of their 12 chicks.

In addition to the Avocets, the tern rafts supported a pair of Common Terns, which fledged a single chick, and an unsuccessful pair of Black-headed Gulls. Other species present on the reserve during the breeding season, though not necessarily proved breeding, included Moorhen, Meadow Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Skylark, Swallow, Sedge Warbler, Linnet and Reed Bunting.

There were no major issues concerning disturbance of the colony involving members of the public. The importance of a warden presence allowed potential problems to be avoided through vigilance and tactical intervention. For example, the riders of motorbikes and quad bikes on the beach early in the season were spoken to by the warden. This and a continued warden presence resulted in greatly reduced activity. Walkers, sometimes with dogs, were always happy to retreat when the warden explained the risk of the potential effect of disturbance.

Two community woodlands.

The South Holderness Countryside Society planted trees on the former arable land at our Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve in the years 1993-1998. There are two other newly planted woods with public access within a few miles and these might well be worth visiting in order to provide comparison with the Hollym Carrs woodland. Stork Hill wood is further from the sea and is entirely carrland. St Michael's Wood is quite near the sea and on similar soil to the Hollym plantation but has a different selection of trees.

1. Stork Hill Wood.

Situated North-west of Beverley at Grid Reference TA052423.

Access from the A1035 via the Hull Bridge cul-de-sac at Grid Reference TA054436 (where there is plenty of parking space), over the stile next to the picturesque footbridge and northwards along the West bank of the River Hull (which is tidal but freshwater here and has otters) to the footbridge over the Beverley & Barmston Drain, a walk of about 700 metres.

The site is part of Molescroft Grange Farm. An area of 7.5 hectares (18.5 acres) of wet pasture in the flood-plain of the River Hull was planted with 13,500 broadleaved trees in 2004 in order to provide more woodland in the interests of fostering biodiversity. The work was supported by the Forestry Commission and the Onyx Environmental Trust. It looks as though the intention was to simulate original carr woodland by planting with several species of Willows, Alder, Birch, Oak and Ash, with Hawthorn, Sloe and, oddly, Sweetbriar at the edges. The Ash saplings are badly affected by dieback. There are also a few oddities like a large Cotoneaster, two Medlars and a Black Walnut. There is a grassy clearing in the middle, with a small pond. Some of the plants in the clearing, including the blue-flowered Meadow Cranesbill, seem to have been introduced but the pink-flowered Marsh Woundwort, which is frequent in the wetter parts of the Hull Valley, looks as though it is a genuine native. The nearby Beverley and Barmston Drain and River Hull make it a good place to see dragonflies. The smaller drains around the edges of the site are fenced off but the big drain along its eastern edge is not, though it would be dangerous to venture down the bank at this point.

2. Saint Michael's Wood.

Situated North of St Michael's Church, East Garton (Garton in Holderness) at Grid Reference TA271366.

Access is via B1242 Aldbrough Road, then the road to Grimston that runs eastwards to St Michael's Church and on to Moat Farm and Grimston Hall. The footpath on the left (northern) side of the road, starting a little way beyond the church, leads straight to the wood, a walk of about 200 metres. It is possible to park on the roadside near the footpath without blocking the road if you are careful.

This relatively large (29 hectares (~80 acres)) Community Woodland was planted on arable boulder clay as mitigation for works associated with the Aldbrough gas storage caverns by SSE/Statoil. A total of 17,395 mixed native and non-locally indigenous trees were planted in winter/spring 2013. They are clearly not intended to simulate the natural woodland of the area, there being a substantial quantity of Pine and no Ash in the planting. At the time of writing the trees have not yet suppressed the grass sward. There is a sizeable pond (0.73 acre), which may constitute a hazard for the unwary. W R Dolling

Another Community Woodland

Further to Bill Dolling's interesting article about publicly accessible woodlands planted contemporaneously with our own Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve, I add St Paul's Wood in Burton Pidsea. Some members of this Society may remember contributing volunteer muscle power to this comparatively small project.

St Paul's Wood, Burton Pidsea

Situated East of Burton Pidsea at Grid Reference TA254310. Area 1.3 hectares (3.2 acres).

Access to this plantation is via public footpath alongside St Paul's Church in the centre of the village. Follow the path down St Peter's Walk past a few houses. At the end of the cul-de-sac a footpath runs between two houses to the entrance to the woodland approximately 140m on the left.

Work commenced in the autumn of 1999 with seeding of the site with a meadow mix. The local community (including SHCS volunteers) began the planting works in March 2000 following a very successful press campaign. The name was chosen for the wood by the local community and relates the name of the village church. The woodland was funded by the Millennium Commission, The Forestry Commission, The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire County Council, Burton Pidsea Millennium Committee, BP Amoco Employees, Hull and East Riding Community Trust and local people.

The compartment consists of 1.3ha, which was planted with native mixed broadleaf trees and shrubs. Tree species consist 18% each of sessile oak, ash, cherry, rowan and field maple. Shrub species are 2% each of dog rose, blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and holly. The trees and shrubs were planted in a random fashion at 3m spacing to achieve 1100 trees per hectare creating a naturalistic effect. An oak tree marking the millennium was planted opposite the main entrance, within site.

Northern Forest plan - Biofuel feedstock for when we have gone

Since the last issue it has been announced that there is a plan to plant 50 million trees between Holderness and Liverpool. At first hearing this sounds a good idea but those of us with serious scientific interest in the distribution of fauna and flora across the region reserve our enthusiasm. As a cynic, I have dug deeper to see why the government is so keen on this project.

What we are not told in the exciting newspaper reports is that the plan, pushed by the Northern Powerhouse, proposes to incorporate five established community forests within the bigger picture of eventually providing feedstock for power stations in the M62 corridor. These currently need 10 million tonnes of fuel per year to provide 10% of our electricity need. Reducing flood risk, improving air quality and providing leisure access are trotted out as public opinion smoothers. This means that these five established forests are destined to be felled first. By the time the extra planting is mature, miserable blighters like me and a very high proportion of the region's flora will have long gone. The plan plays on the fact that the area concerned has less than 8% tree coverage. It does not say that after development, the increased cover will be on borrowed time.

Those of us who remember fighting proposals to sell off our National Forests about 10 years ago (again, that hid proposals for commercial de-forestation) recognise this as just another scam. Planting trees does not necessarily enhance biodiversity and without due care this County's impoverished natural flora will suffer, perhaps to extinction, under a carpet of sometimes inappropriate woodland.

Source references can be provided

Peter J Cook

Heronsew Feedback

It is always pleasing to get feedback on published articles and my request for comment on my piece on Heronsew and the etymology of place names has been answered by Bill Dolling, who submits the following ideas, which I have paraphrased:

Bill is very suspicious of the received wisdom concerning Hamlet's assertion that while he may be mad he's not stupid - or words to that effect. The text clearly has 'hawk' and 'handsaw' and if we interpret 'hawk' as a dialect term for 'bill-hook', we get the picture of the rustic labourer who at least knows the names of the basic tools for hedging (or hurdle-making) and can tell the hook from the handsaw. So tools, not birds, are more likely the subject.

Bill continues: for Withernsea, pronounced by some Withronsea, much as Elstronwick is spelt by some, were maybe once pronounced with an additional syllable, now elided, as Witheronsea and Elsteronwick. In London and the Home Counties, at least some place names ending in -ea or -ey seem to be derived from a word meaning isle, which now has -land appended to it to make island. Oxney in Kent is an example. Whether it is the island of oxen or some other ox- like syllable I don't know but it was undoubtedly once an island surrounded by marshes. In Roman times the low-lying land of Holderness was inundated by the sea and the coastal ridge was largely cut off by saltmarshes where for example the Hull-Withernsea railway line passes Hollym Carrs. In Roman and early Saxon times, Horn, Withern and Kiln may well have been most readily accessible by boat. Whitethorn Island might be a reasonable guess as the origin of the name Withernea. The other Whitethorn is South Holderness is Withernwick. Wick usually means a landing-place (Greewich, Hayburn Wyke etc). Does that mean that the Lambwath stream was once navigable? Likewise Elstronwick on the Humbleton Beck, if that was once navigable. Perhaps 'wick' can mean other things. In the East Riding it means 'lively' or 'live' so perhaps Withernwick refers to the live wires of the windfarm. Just speculating...

[Or live, green withies?, a place where green withies for basket-making are available. PC]

Anti-plastic Campaign

Sky News's Ocean Rescue campaign, David Attenborough's new Blue Planet series and China's decision to stop taking our rubbish has caused a serious analysis of where we are heading on pollution with realization that our current re-cycling capacity will never be able to cope with the increasing mountain of plastic that we put into our recycling bins, or not. It is now virtually impossible to buy any item free from contamination by plastic.

We can all contribute in a small way by actively avoiding plastic. Preferring degradable substitutes is probably the best we can do. Who really needs to use a plastic drinking straw, plastic cutlery or plastic lighters?

Perhaps you could feed-back any plastic reduction measures that you do, or see, and make this a Society campaign?

Paul Collins – Your Local Hero

We applaud Paul Collins of the Spurn Bird Observatory for his award of 'Your Local Hero' in the Birdwatch Birder's Choice Awards 2017. Paul is well known to those who visit Spurn; not least our Young Nats who enjoyed their time with him last year ringing birds. Paul does a lot of conservation work working with volunteers to make a big difference to conservation in the Kilnsea area. He also sits, together with the SHCS, on the EBSG to manage the Kilnsea Wetlands Reserve. Well done Paul and the Spurn Bird Observatory for winning this prestigious accolade.

Peter J Cook

Sound conservation practice or vigilantism?

Peter J Cook

There seems to be something very deep within the primitive brain that compels some people to interfere, to tidy or to re-arrange in response to nature. Some people cannot stop themselves from applying anthropomorphic sentiments to wildlife, for example, picking up a dead animal for disposal may be aesthetic but it robs a whole host of creatures their next meal. One of many practices that annoys me is the persecution of ivy, especially on other people's property, without their permission and without ability to justify why. In one case that I challenged the stated reason was that predictable gem, health and safety; "ivy will kill the tree, which might then fall on someone!" This was stated by a whipper-snapper with an air of learned superiority suggesting that I have not lived long enough to have learned this 'fact'. That the tree concerned regularly supported nesting tree sparrows for at least 20 years, was irrelevant.

People identify with trees as living (perhaps even sentient) beings and want to alleviate their perceived suffering. There are vigilante ivy cutters empathising with trees and going on undercover mercy missions to alleviate this suffering. They feel that trees are under attack, that they are weighed down, that they are being strangled. They go out tooled-up to sever ivy within reach of the bottom of trees and then go home to their armchairs feeling good about their part in saving the planet. The practice is becoming so prevalent that I understand one country park has had to erect signs asking people not to cut the ivy.

Far from alleviating suffering, what they are actually doing is destroying the nesting and feeding habitat for birds, insects and roosts for bats. Ivy is an essential source of nectar late in the year and is frequently foraged by deer up to a browse line. There's so much more than this. Some would say that a dead sycamore tree covered in ivy supports more wildlife than a live one without ivy. Ivy climbs trees that are starting to die, their depleted canopy allows more light to shine down to the trunk in the summer growing period. A tree covered in ivy does not die any quicker than one without, and while dying and standing dead it provides increasingly rare natural habitat.

All this persecution is because of a compulsive need to tidy rather than fulfil any scientifically reasoned purpose. It seems to be the same need that drives gardeners to trim, to poison and to arrange plants in evenly spaced in rows, and the same compulsion that causes people to shape bushes, trim lawns and spray herbicide on all plants that have the audacity to grow where only they think they shouldn't. This is fine in their own garden, but not beyond its boundary.

Unfortunately, the same compulsion drives some nature conservation practices by even the biggest of professional wildlife organisations. Nature doesn't need our help and vast amounts of money are wasted twiddling and tweaking habitat into a design for a target single species. It only needs land and to not be killed. Trying to maintain moors, clear scrub, 'rescue' heathland and saltmarsh by burning, slashing and over-grazing by inappropriate herbivores, only artificially increases the tiny numbers of 'target' species while destroying established communities and preventing natural succession.

A Planting at Toffling Hill

Thank goodness, for once it wasn't raining as a group of four SHCS members and a visitor went to plant 50 Hazel saplings, in accordance with the management plan which Peter had formulated and which specifically mentions "Trees for Bees". 5 Alder Buckthorn and 5 Purging Buckthorn were also planted to gap-fill the holes in the hedge, all to attract butterflies. Peter had already marked out the places where these saplings were required to be planted in readiness for Margaret, Tracey, Richard, our visitor Willem and of course Peter, and all 60 were soon in the ground.

It is interesting to note, that Willem is responsible for the running of a "Cubs and Beavers" club and has colleagues who are Venture Scouts. Quite a number of these young adults are interested in taking on outside work, with the youngsters being possible future members of our own "Young Nats Club"

(Willem's father had some land in Belgium which he also looks after as a Nature Reserve, and we are hoping that some sort of liaison will grow between our two organisations.)



Willem.....and Tracey, at work

If anyone, members, friends, and their grannies would like to become more involved with the work of the Society, either on the practical side on our Reserves, as committee members (for which you must be a full member), or to place an article in this journal.....

Please contact either Margaret, Freddy or Peter. All our numbers are at the back of this journal.

Garden Wildlife Jobs for Spring

Early Spring is a good time to think about your garden wildlife and what you can do to attract it by providing food and shelter.

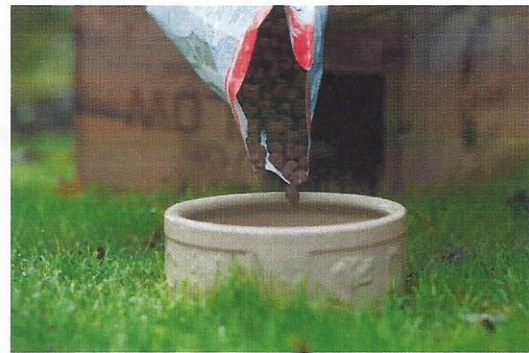
Most wildlife will still be hibernating, but you may spot an early bumblebee or hedgehog that have woken early in mild weather. They will have gone without food for a long time and will now be hungry.

If you want to attract more wildlife into your garden there are plenty of ways to do it. One of the easiest ways is to create habitats for wildlife, and it doesn't matter if you have a small garden. Dead wood piles are easy to build, and the material can be found on most walks where there are trees with fallen branches. Both insects and mammals will love these. Or grow plants for bees from last year's seed heads or the local garden centre. There are many pre-mixed packs of insect friendly seeds that are easy to grow.

Here are some early Spring wildlife gardening jobs:

Leave food for hedgehogs.

Leave out water and meat based dog or cat food for hedgehogs that have come out of hibernation early in mild weather. Leave the food out from dusk and cover or throw away anything that is left by the morning. Dried food is best, with a small kibble size, which is easier to eat and reduces the risk of flies.



Buy crocuses and primroses.

Pots of flowering crocus and primrose will provide a sweet treat for bumblebees who have woken early and will bring some welcome colour into the garden.

Avoid turning the compost heap.

Even if conditions are mild avoid turning the compost heap until well into April. Frogs, small mammals and insects may still be hibernating tucked up inside and any disturbance may risk their survival.

Clean out nest boxes

Clean out nest boxes to make way for prospecting birds who should now be house hunting for places to raise their young. Make sure you watch the box carefully from a good hiding spot to make sure the new occupants haven't already arrived. It's never too late to build and put up a new nest box – a sheltered spot facing north-east is best.





With the 70th birthday of the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) approaching thousands of volunteers are preparing to contribute to the next WeBS Core count on 18th March. As we go to print, with winter coming to an end and spring beginning, many water birds will be leaving our shores to head back to their northern breeding grounds. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and identify important sites for water birds.

On Friday 13th April we are pleased to announce that our next speaker will be Neil Calbrade, a valued member of the WeBS team. After several years walking round East Anglian fields as BTO fieldworker, Neil took over as the Low Tide Counts Organiser. Neil is responsible for the overall running of the WeBS Low Tide Counts, including maintaining the WeBS database, producing the WeBS Newsletter and annual report, promoting the scheme, and liaising with WeBS volunteer surveyors and the network of volunteer WeBS Local Organisers. Neil also deals with requests for WeBS Data. For all things low tide Neil is the person to speak to.

Neil's talk will focus on the low tide areas of the Humber. This will be a fascinating talk, held in the Patrington Church Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

NATURE'S WAY - GILL HART.

Slinky snake, slithering through grass.
Mongoose lurking, a family to feed.
Slinky snake slides closer.

Eagle waiting with young to fill.
Slinky snake is hungry too.
Frog sits croaking by the water's edge.

Slinky snake, even closer now.
Mongoose freezes with wide-open jaw.
Eagle diving with talons spread.

Slinky snake strikes poor frog
Mongoose thaws, surprises feeding snake.
Eagle snatches snake, frog and mongoose...
Nobody hungry anymore.

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 emailed 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 email or a telephone call to arrange 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

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OUR WEBSITE

www.holdernesscountryside.org

is managed by Mrs Claire Ashton.

Please keep this site alive!

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All membership payments to Denise please.



Find us on
Facebook

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

April 13th

A talk by Neil Calbrade on the work of the Wetlands Bird Survey in the Humber region.

May 11th

The SHCS AGM. All members are invited to attend to find out about the exciting projects being worked on in your region.



Sedge Warbler – Neil Calbrade

June (Excursion) A guided walk with Tony Porter looking at Historic Hedon. Watch our website and Facebook page for further details.

July (Excursion) A Back to Nature Day focussed on Toffling Hill and Ivy House. A fun educational day for all ages. Watch our website and Facebook page!

September 14th Dr Rohan Lewis introduces us to Medicinal Plants. Judicious and painfull herbarists – the 1633 Herbal of John Gerard and Thomas Johnson.

October 12th BDMLR are the only marine animal rescue organisation operating across England, Wales and Scotland. Find out about their work along our coastline.



BDMLR in action - BDMLR

Unless otherwise stated the venue is Patrington Church Hall at 7.30pm. The hall is situated behind the HOLDERNESS INN on HIGH STREET with parking available in St Patrick's car park.

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