



Registered Charity No 701627

Autumn Winter 2018

# Holderness Countryside

Journal of the South Holderness Countryside Society



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**No 133** - Free to members. Available to non-members for a minimum donation of £1.50

## From the Chairman

It's been a busy year for all sorts of reasons – and still lots of jobs to do across the winter before the spring tasks are announced! If you have missed what has been going on – where have you been?! Get your wellies on.

Let's start with some of the work carried out on the reserves. Andy has been busy once again this year strimming and chainsawing in and around Hollym. Peter took the heavier option of using the 'Billy Goat' to mow through some of the heavier tangles of briar and grass, and also took on a good deal of spade work alongside Freddie, myself and my husband, Richard. The meadows were kindly bailed up by Reg Fisher with some bails being left behind as nature hides. We still have some trees at Ivy House that need felling and in the spring – it starts all over again!



Explorers from Burstwick joined us in June to help paint the end wall at Ivy House. Not quite sure if it was the wall or the boys who ended up covered in the most paint, but they did a great job and are very welcome to come back again.

Our Back to Nature day fell on a beautifully warm day in July and resulted in several new Young Nats joining up for Margaret's group, a guided walk around Toffling Hill by young and older members, and lots of nature activities to keep everyone busy. A thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone.

The Young Nats group is thriving with two members about to receive their Gold Award and two newbies their Bronze, as we go to press. The activities that the kids are involved with are fun, educational, and frequently muddy! Margaret coaches these young members to tease the very best out of them, and this is reflected in the standard of school work they go on to produce.

The SHCS host talks on the second Friday of each month, with a short break across the worst of winter. We have had some wonderful speakers this year; Dr Rohan Lewis, Neil Calbrade, our very own Peter Cook, and the final talk, in December, combines a long awaited visit from BDMLR and our Christmas social night. Bring a friend and a plate of food – not necessarily in that order! I am starting to 'encourage' speakers for next year. We're a friendly lot, so if you have a passion for nature and would like to let us know about it, please contact me, and I will book you a slot.

Finally, a big 'Thank you' to each and every committee member. Each one contributes in an invaluable way to SHCS, and have done for many years. Also to those who work behind the scenes to produce the mag, the mammoth job of organizing memberships, and Freddie for keeping us on the straight and narrow as a charity.

Tracey Netherton (Chairman)

## **A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

I hope that all members are reading and enjoying The Journal editions.

A lot of work goes into each and every issue and it would be nice to know if copies are read and not just binned.

Also, if any member would like to submit relevant material for consideration I would be happy to receive it. (In Word – if possible please).

A few nature snippets to fill in gaps would be ideal, and then members need not suffer my attempts at poetry. Besides, I'm now running out of suitable material.

GILL HART (editor)

## **FEEDBACK ON GUIDED WALK AROUND HEDON**

On a pleasant day in June we went on the 'Historic Hedon' guided walk.

It was led by Tony Porter who was very knowledgeable and informative. He told us lots about the history of Hedon (how 20% of the population of 50 died from cholera), and also pointed out places of interest (the Kilnsea Cross in the grounds of Holyrood House residential home).

The walk lasted around 2 hours and there was only about half a dozen of us (but it was Father's Day) so a pretty good turn out.

When we go to Hedon in the future we will look at it in a whole new light.

Tom and Julie Fox (SHCS members)

## **Membership Fees.**

A gentle reminder to all members who have not yet paid subscription fees.

Please give this your prompt attention. Thank you.

## MOTH TRAPPING AT HOLLYM CARRS NATURE RESERVE (HCNR)

Before starting this article I must stress that no moths were killed, injured or seemingly upset by being trapped in one of 6 different light traps set out along the West side of HCNR overnight on the 11<sup>th</sup> July. Messrs Mike Coverdale and Jim Morgan were skilful in choosing a night with perfect conditions for catching 174 different species of moth. Some species were caught in high numbers, an indication that they were breeding on the reserve. I arrived at about 04.00 and was 'gobsmacked' not only by the numbers of moths and the enormity of the task of identifying and releasing them but by Mike and Jim's skill at identifying all the species by common and scientific name. Sadly there was no time for photography but some gallery photos of the more spectacular species are given below.

Our records for moths at HCNR were hitherto few and only of day-time fliers and of species of micro-moth identified from leaf mines for which the accuracy of identifications was not scientifically 'safe'. We now have a set of records for flying insects identified by experts with which to compare and contrast against our records for both HCNR and for Toffling Hill. A composite list for both reserves, only a mile apart, could be interesting. Another one or two sessions with traps placed in different broad habitats across HCNR should be tried first.

Most of the moths caught do not have a common 'English' name and many are the equivalent of the bird watcher's 'LBJ' (Little Brown Job). Sometimes the common name is confusing, for example, the most frequently caught moth (102) was one called, "Uncertain". This is its actual name, not a note that neither Mike nor Jim was certain of its identification! Some moths were spectacularly 'pretty' – better looking than some butterflies. My 1<sup>st</sup> prize for beauty goes to Peach Blossom moth (top left) though Common Emerald (top centre), Burnished Brass (top left), Lilac Beauty (middle left), Swallow-tailed Moth (bottom left), Garden Tiger (bottom centre) and Elephant Hawk (bottom left) were all impressive.



## HIDES

Peter J Cook

Seeking to reduce the Society's liabilities and work load while restoring and enhancing our local 'standing', we are effecting two significant changes to the provision of bird hides.

More than 25 years ago we erected a substantial bird hide complete with access for wheelchair-bound members at Fisherman's Channel, Sunk Island. At that time we had joined forces with the Humber Wildfowlers and with the permission of Mr Godfrey and Crown Agents (Carter Jonas) we managed Fisherman's Channel as a nature reserve. Some years later the farm went into whole-farm environmental management scheme and together with the Humber Wildfowlers we lost our influence in the management of the reserve. However, we were allowed to keep and use the bird hide providing we maintained it and kept up public liability insurance. Thanks to Alan, Brian, Jeff, Andy, Frank and me we have kept access to the hide clear, replaced screening and repaired parts of its structure over the years. In June I tentatively put a proposal to Mr Will Osgerby, manager at Channel Farm, that we relinquish ownership and liability for the hide and that if the farm did not want it, we consider the cost of removing it. Further discussion led to Mr Godfrey thankfully agreeing to keep the hide open for continued use. This 'deal' wipes out a considerable annual cost from our insurance bill and removes our concern about the time and costs of maintaining safe access and structural integrity of the hide. Yet, we retain use!

At Beacon Lagoons Nature Reserve we had a substantial hide since the early 1990's. This got battered by a tidal surge and was finally destroyed and dismantled about 5 years ago. We submitted a claim on insurance and received £7000 towards a replacement. There is no longer a safe and sensible place to build a replacement hide on the reserve and we have tried all sorts of ways of using the money for the correct purpose without success. However, an opportunity has arisen through our membership of the Easington Biodiversity Study Group which oversees the development and management of Kilnsea Wetlands. This reserve has become so successful that its hide is too small to accommodate the visitor density. We have agreed to contribute the £7000 towards the construction of a larger replacement hide, more than matching the generous contribution from a resident of Kilnsea to a total of £11500. Details of the hide will be published in due course but Andy Gibson of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has commissioned construction of a hide using environmentally friendly board produced in Holderness (Salt End) by an organisation staffed by people that would otherwise not find work. This ticks a few boxes for the Society's social responsibility and utilisation of local industry which will come in handy should we have need to apply for financial assistance towards a future major project. It also gives us a very much more accessible shop window on our contribution to local wildlife conservation for very little effort on our part, at a cost contribution originating wholly from an insurance claim for a loss.

It is expected that the new hide will be available for use early in 2019. The existing small hide will be relocated to a place more accessible to people with mobility issues. We thank Andy Gibson and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for moving this project forwards.

## AND - SEEKS

**WANTED: A VOLUNTEER-POOL FOR CONSERVATION TASKS OVER THE WINTER PERIOD. TASKS ENVISAGED INCLUDE CREATING ACCESS TO TOFFLING HILL POND, BARBED WIRE REMOVAL AND MAKING-SAFE TASKS. THESE WOULD BE MID-WEEK AND WEEKEND SHORT TASKS ARRANGED AD HOC AS AND WHEN NEEDING FAIRLY HARDY AND PRAGMATIC VOLUNTEERS. RING PETER TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE CONTACT LIST. 614466**

## **BIRDS OF PREY IN SOUTH HOLDERNESS**

Having spent holidays in Mid Wales in the early 1980's and lucky enough to see a pair of Red Kites, which were extremely rare at that time, I could have never imagined I would see one in South Holderness in my lifetime. Well, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, my wife was in the garden and spotted a bird of prey, called me out and to my surprise wheeling around above our house in Thorngumbald was a Red Kite. I therefore wonder if there have been any other sightings in our area. Was this a bird spreading out from the North and South Cave area, where they have been seen for a number of years now, or was it just a singleton passing through? Time and records will no doubt tell.

Another bird of prey we are seeing in our area is the Common Buzzard my latest sighting was on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 along the Sproatley to Preston road.

It would be nice to think that maybe sometime in the future, one or both of these species would be a common sight in South Holderness and maybe even find a place to breed on our Reserve.

ALAN BURNHAM (SHCS member)

The above message was received via email last April. Members who attended the meeting at Patrington soon afterwards were told of the sightings, but other members may not have heard, and as such may be of interest to them.

GILL HART (editor)

### **PLIGHT OF THE VIXEN      GILL HART**

With nose pointing skywards she scents the air  
Aware of surroundings and any danger there.

Some distance away the reason is clear  
In mind for mischief, two bundles appear.  
Stumbling and tumbling the fun-seeking pair  
Start flattening the meadow grass, mindless of care.

The mother stiffens in the dewy dawn  
Alert to the sound of the hunter's horn.  
"Hurry my babies for all you are worth  
The hounds have no mercy and our trail's in the earth.

Exhausted by now the two little mites  
Arrive home safely, the end of their plight.  
The mother, much later, after hiding their scent  
Cuddles her young, they're safe, for the moment.



## The young Nats Bit

September 2018 and the Young Nat's Club is going on another of our "Outdoor Events". Once again to the RSPB facility at Flamborough South Landing. We were going Rock Pooling.

We arrived at the RSPB site at about lunch time, and as the low tide was due to be some two and a half hours later, we had plenty of time in hand to have our packed lunches. *I'm sure that some of our members had packed enough for a full week, looking at the amount of food that appeared from their back-packs.* Finally, we made our way down to the shore itself where the tide was found to be receding quite nicely, and investigation began in earnest.

We had brought transparent plastic trays with us in which to temporarily keep our discoveries so that everyone could have a chance of seeing the various beasties that had been caught, and, reading from the lists



which the children had made, it would appear that we had just about emptied the North Sea of it's inshore inhabitants.

According to the children's lists we found, amongst others..... 13 crabs; Lots of whelk shells; 1 blenny; dozens of shrimps; hundreds of limpets; 1 Rockling; 3 Hermit crabs; as well as mussels; jelly fish; and, of course Bladder-wrack sea weed ( *Fucus vesiculosus*); Sea lettuce ( *Ulva lactuca*); and Kelp(*Laminaria digitata*) to name but a few. *Young Charly was particularly interested in learning the latin name of the sea-lettuce..*



It was a tiring day (mostly, I think for the adults) But the youngsters skipped about on the slippery sea-weed covered rocks with abandon, and almost without having to carefully work out where the next tentative foot-step was best to be placed. At the very least, we tried to show the children that there is Natural History under the sea as well as on land.

## The Young Nat's Bit (2)

Is it all worthwhile?, Some folk may ask. Of course it's worthwhile. Where else is there where children can actually have practical experience from which to learn about Nature. I am fully aware that there is a part within the school curriculum to teach the basis rudiments, but the schools are extremely limited with both time and finances to be able to enter into this massive subject in depth.

Our Young Naturalists have the facility of our very own Ivy House Centre and it's associated woodland, it's pond and it's variety of wild flowers, trees, insects and birds. Growing things that they can actually handle. They are provided with cultivated flowers that they can take to pieces, to find out how it works. What's inside it? What does it do?. Our members do not take flowers from the wild.

Pond creatures are examined with great curiosity. Some children start off by "Looking on", because there are lots of slimey, slippery beasties that live in water, and some young fingers are just a little shy to start with until they see that absolute concentration of some of their contemporaries. Then it's a case of "one finger" approach. "Will it bite?" "Will It make me poorly if I touch it?" After the initial nervousness we hear "What is it, what does it do, what does it live on? And, finally, Can I have a look? Can I hold it? And the questions start to come, thick and fast. Research. We have a huge library available for them to examine. And, of course, we have some of the finest experts in the country to ask. Next year we hope to be able to take advantage of our Society's newly acquired piece of land at Toffling Hill, just a short five hundred metres from our club room in Hollym. This place has been nurtured as a Nature reserve by it's previous owners for many years, and is so new to us it has not yet been fully surveyed by our experts. It has all the signs of being a very interesting place.

We are now entering our seventh year of operation. One of our young girls, Charly, has been with us since the club first opened it's doors in 2012. Young Adam joined just as soon as he was old enough, a couple of veterans, now at Nine and eleven years old respectively. Throughout the years, Margaret has followed the principles of the RSPB "Wildlife Action Awards" scheme, along with countless additional activities of her own, and Two of our young Naturalists have now completed a minimum of eighteen different disciplines. They have already gained their Bronze, and been awarded their Silver, and at the time of compiling this note, Margaret is making application for these two young people to be presented with the ultimate recognition of their achievements. The Gold Award.

At the other end of the scale, Young Ben, who struggles with a debilitating condition with his eyesight, and has to be provided with all of his written information in at least 36 font and a magnifying glass, is well on the way to being awarded the Bronze. Three newcomers, Alfie, his sister Lillie, and Adam's friend Jenna have only been on our books a very short time, and are still feeling just a little strange in these new surroundings, but they will soon find that our Young Nats Club is a friendly place, where everyone knows everyone else by their first names. They will learn to not be afraid of getting absolutely filthy. It's part of the fun. They will achieve, hopefully, at least a basic knowledge of Nature, and a long lasting interest, and respect, of all living things, and to follow in the footsteps of Felicity and Kira, two wonderfully talented young ladies who have now gone on to do greater things.....  
Worthwhile... I'd say it is.

The young Naturalists club takes place fortnightly at our Society headquarters, at our Ivy House Centre in Hollym. Dates and times of meetings are available from Margaret or Freddy on 01964671492 or Tracey on 01964 623261.. Our last meeting this year (our young Nats Party) is in early December, and we re-open, subject to the weather in April 2019. Freddy



## Winter Wildlife Jobs

### Let your garden go wild...

- Leave undisturbed wild areas in your garden – piles of leaves or brushwood can make the perfect nest for animals to hide, rest or hibernate.
- If you have a compost heap, this will become a welcome habitat for toads, grass snakes and slow-worms.



### Break the ice ...

- If your garden pond freezes over, ensure you make a hole in the ice to prevent toxic gasses building up in the water which may kill fish or frogs that are hibernating in the bottom.
- Never break the ice with force or tip boiling water onto the pond! Carefully place a pan of hot water on the surface.

### Feed the birds ...

- Provide a range of seeds, fresh unsalted peanuts and table scraps (cheese and fruits such as apples and pears).
- Garden birds also love dried mealworms or waxworms, which can be bought from bird food suppliers.



### Provide fresh water ...



- Clean water and food will encourage visiting hedgehogs to return regularly to your garden. Minced meat, tinned dog food (not fish based) or even scrambled eggs!
- There are lots of ready-made hedgehog foods available from pet and garden stores.
- Be aware – hedgehogs like milk but it may cause severe diarrhoea, especially in youngsters.

### Attract garden visitors ...

- Foxes – cheese, boiled potatoes, chicken carcasses, bread and fat scraps at dusk.
- Squirrels – hazelnuts, walnuts, almonds, chopped apple, beans, carrots or spinach.
- Badgers – Earthworms are under the frozen ground so offer lightly cooked meat, cheese, peanuts and fruit.

## **THE POND STALKER. Gill Hart.**

This picture was taken by my neighbour through his conservatory window.

It was in the next garden along, on the greenhouse roof.

It was 8 o'clock in the morning so it was probably looking for breakfast.

It had been seen on numerous occasions around the Glebelands Estate in Burton Pidsea.

If you are missing fish from your pond, this heron may be guilty.



### **SHCS Privacy Policy**

The South Holderness Countryside Society is committed to the protection of your personal data. The personal data you provide will only be used by the Society for the purpose of administration of your membership and for communicating with you with regard to the business of the Society to keep you informed about news, events and activities. This data will be held until October 31<sup>st</sup> each year (two months after the renewal date of your membership) whereupon it will be securely erased from our records. Processing is also necessary for carrying out legal obligations in relation to Gift Aid. This data must legally be kept for a period of six years. We will never sell your data nor share it with any other organisation. You have a number of rights, including the right to access your data, right to rectification, and the right to object. You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office if you feel there is a problem with the way the South Holderness Countryside Society is handling your data. The data controllers are the Officers, the Membership Secretary and the General Secretary of the Society.

The next membership renewal form will ask you to confirm once again the details you would prefer us to use to contact you for SHCS business as above.

## 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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Position	Name	Telephone
Chairman (Vacant)	Tracey Netherton	01964 623261
Vice Chairman	Margaret Kennedy	01964 671492
General Secretary	Fred Kennedy	01964 671492
Treasurer	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

## OUR WEBSITE

[www.holdernesscountryside.org](http://www.holdernesscountryside.org)

managed by Mrs Claire Ashton.

**Please keep this site alive!**

[clairelouiseashton@hotmail.com](mailto:clairelouiseashton@hotmail.com)

E-mail contacts:

Chairman:

[tr\\_netherton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tr_netherton@hotmail.co.uk)

Vice Chairman/Secretary:

[scruffeighteen@talktalk.net](mailto:scruffeighteen@talktalk.net)

Treasurer: [botanical748@gmail.com](mailto:botanical748@gmail.com)

Editor: [brian.gill60@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.gill60@btinternet.com)

Membership Secretary Mrs Denise Failey:  
Demswood, Boreas Hill, Paull, HU12 8AX  
Tel: 01964 622576

All membership payments to Denise please.



# Programme of Events

## December 14<sup>th</sup>

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

and

This being the last meeting of the year, we ask our members if they would like to show some of their very own wildlife images. Just a few pictures and a short maximum ten minute explanation to go with them. Here's your chance to be a wild-life lecturer. It can be amusing or serious, we don't care. Enjoy.

Bring along a savoury or a sweet, and your own drinks. **Let's have a party**

**January** There is no meeting this month

**February** In view of past year's tendency for inclement weather during February this meeting **may be cancelled** watch out on facebook.

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There is always a need for volunteers in our Society, and the coming season is the time when most of the time-consuming work is carried out on our Reserves.

It's not heavy work and can turn out to be an enjoyable day out in the countryside. Many hands do make for light work. If you are interested, please contact either Peter, Tracey or Fred. Our numbers are in the back of this journal. Keep an eye on facebook.

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May I take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.