



Registered Charity No 701627

Early Summer 2021

Holderness Countryside



Grass snake – Hollym Carrs. David Constantine.

Journal of the South Holderness Countryside Society

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No 139 - Free to members. Available to non-members for a minimum donation of £1.50

NEWS

Jeff and Christine Marshall have been key members of the SHCS - Jeff as a Trustee and Chris as Treasurer, and friends, for several years. In their retirement they have decided to reside permanently in Tenerife. In his finest days Jeff was our caterer at events and helped us no end when sorting out Ivy House. His natural flair for keeping what might come in handy one day has shone through. We still have stuff serving as a lasting memento! Jeff and Chris have pledged to stay on as members of the Society and we wish them all the very best in their new life. We will miss them.

We learned for the first time before Christmas that Mr John Oldham, retired local veterinary surgeon, has passed away. John and Barbara were members of the Society for many years and we extend our love to Barbara.

In the very early years of the Society Trevor Malkin was a committee member who played a major role in the development of Beacon Lagoons, Fisherman's Channel and other reserves. He also helped us to get the journal printed in Driffeld and engaged our services as car park marshals at the Driffeld Traction Engine Rally, earning us valuable revenue. Trevor has decided not to renew his membership and we thank him for all the work that he did in building the Society.

Bill and Janet Dolling moved home to Tickton a few years ago. Sadly both have decided not to renew their membership as they are pretty much isolated from us now. Both were heavily involved in the design stages of Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve and Bill has studied and contributed to our biodiversity records over the years and remains very interested in the fauna of HCNR. Even as I write this I have picked up an e-mail from him with a query related to HCNR. Long may he do so. We thank them both for their work and expertise at HCNR and in the early days of establishing Ivy House.

Following an urgent need to address dangerous trees at Ivy House we hit another problem, yet again, with an alleged blocked land drainage pipe. When the A1033 main road was diverted across the previous owner's land,

water from the main ditch was put through a culvert under the road into a 150 mm pipe which now lies at 2 m depth directly under a 30 metre long line of Leylandii trees inside Ivy House grounds. Some of the pipes have collapsed and have allowed roots from nearby hybrid poplar trees to enter them. A considerable catchment area of southern Hollym allegedly floods and we have some responsibility to rectify the problem – a potentially very expensive one whether we do or don't. The least expensive option is to bypass the old drain with a new one which involves digging a trench two metre deep and one metre wide for 36 metres distance, and laying in a 300 mm diameter double-wall pipe. This sort of piping is not cheap but a local farmer has cadged enough from the contractors constructing the new Withernsea water treatment works, a gift worth hundreds of pounds. The work is likely to cause much upheaval of land and deep holes. Ivy House grounds will be closed while the work is being done.

For several years signage at HCNR has fallen into dis-repair or disappeared completely. Andy Mason has started to replace it with a more, "corporate style". There is increasing evidence that ownership and authority has become unclear. Paths are not clearly defined so other routes are being forged; dog walkers are allowing their dogs to run free; we have had people with portable BBQ's, and every time we go to the site we have to remove several items of annoying litter. We have had 'dog men' hare coursers at Toffling Hill reserve and although not proven, at HCNR as well. These people are not to be meddled with and those of us who go there regularly carry "What3Word" locations so that we can give emergency services more accurate locations.

Throughout the pandemic lock downs we have had responsibility to implement reserve closures and specifications re numbers. We have at least 'covered our backs' by posting advice on the Hollym Village and our own facebook pages. As many as 126 people read one of our posts with no adverse back-chat and numerous 'thumbs up' likes. This can only have done some good in establishing who we are.

Peter J Cook

When is a bug not a bug?

Have you ever seen the Pixar film 'A Bug's Life'? I love films like this. The animation quality, an easy watch, a few laughs and possibly a few tears; but this 1998 film is factually incorrect! Imagine that!

The main character is an ant; not a bug. The villains are grasshoppers; not bugs. A caterpillar and soon to be butterfly; not a bug. A ladybird; not a bug despite often being called a ladybug. A spider, a praying mantis and a rhinoceros beetle also make an appearance; not bugs. Finally, two Pillbugs. Have we found the eponymous characters at last? No. Pillbugs are part of the woodlouse family; also not bugs! Let's have a look at where they went wrong. They forgot the basic rule, and that states that although all bugs are insects – not all insects are bugs.



Young Nats building a Bug-Hotel at Ivy House 2019

Although these two words are often used in place of each other, I did it myself with the 'Lockdown Bug Hunt Challenge' I set for South Holderness Countryside Society members at the end of March, when you look at things as an entomologist there is a big difference. An insect is an arthropod. It has an exoskeleton with six legs, and a body which consists of three parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen. There are 24 to 32 (scientists can't decide) orders of insects, and just one of them, *Hemiptera*, classifies bugs. Two of our film-stars are beetles, the ladybird and the rhinoceros beetle. These are of the family *Coleoptera*.

So why isn't a bug actually a beetle? We need to get up close and personal for this. Let's start with how they eat. Bugs prefer a liquid diet. They have mouthparts comparable to a rigid straw that they stab their victims with, digestive juices are squirted in, and then the resultant semi-digested liquid body parts sucked back up again. Gruesome! Don't confuse this with the lovely proboscis of the butterfly which can curl back up once it has had its fill of nectar, the bug has a body piercing stylus up front and ready to use when hungry, such as the bed bug. This paints a rather bad picture as some bugs choose nectar, or are sap suckers, such as aphids. Beetles have distinctive mouthparts that they can use to chew on a wide variety of plant or animal materials, including bugs on their menu. A ladybird can eat up to 5000 aphids in its lifetime. Definitely a gardener's friend.



One similarity is that both bugs and beetles undergo metamorphosis; however, baby bugs look like miniature adults, a process called incomplete metamorphosis, whereas baby beetles start off as larvae with a hardened head and mouthparts and then need to pupate to become an adult. This is known as complete metamorphosis. Have you ever seen a ladybird larvae? A longish squishy segmented body on legs dressed for a Hull City home game in black and amber. Visually nothing like the adult ladybird, apart from the same number of legs, and also a chewer.

Finally, all beetles can fly, but only some bugs can fly. The ones that can't fly don't have wings! The photographs show the wing differences quite clearly. The Hawthorn bug, one of the stink bugs, shows a V-shape towards the tip of the wings, with the upper part of the wing being hard and the tips being membranous. When you compare this to the Ladybird, a beetle, its forewings create a hard shell which cover the entire length of the hindwings which are tucked underneath. This shell is known as the elytra and it creates a midline down the back of the beetle. When a beetle wants to fly it holds the raised elytra out to allow the hindwings to operate. The elytra have many uses, apart from protecting the hindwings, including temperature control and protection of their spiracles, or breathing pores. This protection also enables beetles to survive in almost any environment, the frozen north and south poles are the exceptions, making them the most successful group of animals on Earth.

I'll ask my initial question again, and I suspect that only a particular demographic of the readers will understand this one. When is a bug not a bug? This would be any Volkswagen Type 1 that isn't called Herbie – because he was the original and only Love Bug!

SHCS End of Year Accounts Summary

There was little activity by/for Young Nats (YN) due to the pandemic restrictions.

Balances on the main accounts are healthy at £3,301 (Current Account) and £20,061 (Business Reserve). Income for the year was £3008 and Expenditure was £4178 – an overspend of £1170. This is less than the £1450 we are owed by the Rural Payments Agency, so we need not worry too much.

We have no creditors and the Rural Payments Agency Stewardship payment is late.

Income was markedly down due to a reduction by 18 on membership subs and by the complete absence of any of the £1450 RPA payment on Hollym Carrs stewardship. Perhaps this is covid related.

Expenditure on our primary objectives has necessarily been light with only £495 spent on nature reserves maintenance and mostly the purchase of some hand tools and materials. £551 was spent on Ivy House costs including repairs following a leak and burglar alarm repair. Services and administration costs were £1074 – seemingly more than double last year due to the inclusion of Ivy House grounds maintenance such as grass cutting and window cleaning separate from Ivy House repairs. Ivy House grounds maintenance is going to feature heavily in next year's costs due to imminent urgent tree surgery work and resolving a drainage issue. However, a shocker is an eye-watering £1657 on insurance. We spend more on insurance than on our primary objective of, "creating a better place for wildlife", and a priority should be to re-evaluate our assets and liabilities in 2021.

Projects that will cost us money in 2021 are the legal charges for the land lease and perhaps for the Land Registry charge on accepting some gifted land if it goes that far. The land lease arrangement should reduce our annual insurance bill. There is urgent professional work required to be done on trees that are hazardous at IHC and there is a land drainage issue which must be resolved. We may have to dip into reserves to see us through these payments. That is what they are for and with continued prudence the reserves will be replaced..

Treasurer

South Holderness Countryside Society Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2021

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members of South Holderness Countryside Society on the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2021, as set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the Accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act); and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention that require disclosure

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view. The report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's report

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; or that
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed By:

Stephen J Morgan ACA

Date: 10 March 2021

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 January 2021

Income and Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2020
	Fund	Fund		
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Member Subscriptions	744	-	744	863
Member Donations	851	-	851	930
Gift Aid	205	-	205	578
Countryside Stewardship (RPA)	-	-	-	2,451
Fundraising – General	20	-	20	34
Young Naturalists’ Fundraising	-	-	-	-
Young Naturalists’ Subscriptions	-	-	-	162
Bank Interest Received	18	-	18	47
Grants and Donations	1,000	-	1,000	1,300
Wayleave	170	-	170	-
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Receipts	3,008	-	3,008	6,365
Payments				
Services and Administration	1,074	-	1,074	525
Insurance	1,657	-	1,657	1,587
IT and Website Costs	56	-	56	54
Ivy House Costs	551	-	551	871
Young Naturalists’ Expenses	45	-	45	383
Conservation Projects - General	495	-	495	1,868
Depreciation	300	-	300	-
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Payments	4,178	-	4,178	5,288
	_____	_____	_____	_____
Net Deficit for the Year	(1,170)	-	(1,170)	1,077
Opening Reserves	<u>32,716</u>	-	<u>32,716</u>	<u>31,639</u>
Closing Reserves	<u>31,546</u>	-	<u>31,546</u>	<u>32,716</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2021

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total £	31 Jan 2020 £
Fixed Assets				
Mower	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Chainsaw & Batteries	601	-	601	-
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(300)	-	(300)	-
Net Book Value	3,301	-	3,301	3,000
Current Assets				
<u>Bank and Cash</u>				
Nat West Current Account	3,272	-	3,272	4,603
Nat West Current Account (YN)	1,081	-	1,081	1,126
Nat West Deposit Account (YN)	3,524	-	3,524	3,521
Nat West Bus Reserve Account	20,061	-	20,061	20,046
Cash in hand	-	-	-	-
Cash in hand (YN)	307	-	307	420
Total Assets	31,546	-	31,546	32,716
Reserves	<u>31,546</u>	=	<u>31,546</u>	<u>32,716</u>

Investment assets (not valued as at 31 January 2021)

1. Hollym Carrs nature reserve
2. Beacon Lagoons nature reserve
3. Ivy House
4. Toffling Hill reserve
5. Kilnsea Wetlands bird hide

Other assets (not valued as at 31 January 2021)

	<u>Original Cost</u> £
Marquee	1,423
New Projector	988
Generator	60
2 Stihl Brush-cutters	870
Ivy House Chairs	780
Storage Container	2,856

Tree Sparrow Boxes – Part 2



Following on from my article in the last journal about tree sparrow boxes I went to HCNR on 29th March and put up another box. We now potentially have accommodation for twelve nesting pairs. I continued my bird recording and I also noticed quite a few bees and what I thought was a bee fly; but not certain I only saw it very briefly.

Also, two days later I had a good day at the little gem that is Ivy House tidying up after the tree work, I defined paths with long logs and chippings dragged cut down hawthorn hedge out of the dyke and created a dead hedge.

There was plenty of bird song and birds nesting I was particularly pleased to see blue tits nesting in a plant pot nest box I fixed under the canopy near the door at Ivy House. Before I left, I did a litter pick and unfortunately came across a crisp packet with water in and a dead mouse which had obviously drown. Until next time Charlie.

Charlie Eldred

SO SOON A MEMORY. Gill Hart

Trees dressed with dewdrops.
Spring has sprung.
The river burbles with crystal
tongue.
Soothing the mind to herald the
day,
as swallows twitter from nests of
clay.

As I walk the lanes
under a cloudless sky,
a flock of sheep are herded by.
The meadow grass gossips to
me

“Enjoy me now for soon, I’ll flee.”

Such short-lived joy
a sight sublime,
the rambling rose and
honeysuckle vine.
Soon the air will crisp and hush
the bees’ hum,
as Nature prepares us for what
is to come.



Photo – Richard Netherton

Hollym – My World

When I was asked if I could come up with a few words for the newsletter, my initial thought was what a daunting proposition and I immediately started mentally constructing the barriers to justify my polite refusal 'I don't know anything about wildlife' 'I don't know much about Hollym' and so on.

But then it occurred to me that in passing up such an opportunity I was doing Hollym a monumental disservice, particularly when during the global chaos and confusion over the last year Hollym has necessarily been the extent of my world. I'm sure many of us have taken a step back during this time and reflected on what things are most precious to us and for me, in addition to my loved ones, I have been daily grateful for being locked down in a beautiful village with stunning natural surroundings.

So I don't need to worry that my naturalist knowledge is seriously deficient or that I wasn't born and bred in the village. I can't impart informative details about the flora and fauna or entertain you with bizarre local facts: but if you haven't had the recent pleasure of wandering through the Holderness countryside completely in the moment, or taken some time out to actually appreciate the calm oasis that is Hollym in this crazy, confusing world then I can remind you that you're missing out!



You don't need to identify that bird on your feeder, recognise that beautiful scented bloom; you can enjoy the hooting owls unseen and take pleasure that a hedgehog may have found some sustenance as he passed through your garden. You can watch your garden grow and change, you can follow the seasons through over fields and down lanes. The opportunities are endless and the observations infinitely enjoyable.



And for all of this I feel privileged to have had Hollym as my sanctuary. Of course it goes without saying that this stunning countryside is not possible or sustainable without the contribution and support of organisations such as SHCS as well as the local community and so as we look forward to more hopeful times I hope we will all continue to respect and value our village.

Alison Hoey

NATURE NOTES – FROM IVY HOUSE

Of the 20 different species of moss identified at Ivy House so far, one in particular stands out by growing prolifically on the concrete patio slabs, wooden decking around flower beds and on bits of rubble lying around. Early on a dewy morning or shortly after a shower of rain, golden-yellow branches rear up from feather-like stems. Its common name is Whitish Feather-moss or *Brachythecium albicans*. It is not rare but it is perhaps one of the most attractive mosses.



In March this year, immediately after tree surgeons had finished, Charlie erected a few nest boxes that he had made. Almost immediately one was commandeered by a robin but unfortunately this deserted after falling under the gaze of a stray cat. A box with curious experimental design, a plantpot glued to a board, was erected in the veranda. This soon became the home of a blue tit.

Rather a lot of time spent watching over tree surgeons and doing odd jobs has given opportunity to observe. Investigation of lot of scuffling about among ivy revealed a weasel and on closer search I found a recently killed common shrew.

The lowering of higher branches of otherwise inaccessible sycamore and willow tree canopy gave an opportunity to inspect for lichens and mosses with some interesting results. The lichen species inventory for Ivy House and its grounds now lists 32 including a suite of three locally important species that are very highly

sensitive to atmospheric sulphur, providing evidence of cleaner air.

Throughout the winter months I have been finding evidence of roe deer including, one morning, deer droppings in the verandah and hair on the hand rail where one had been having a bit of a scratch! These roam over arable fields to the South of Ivy House during the day and come over to our place to shelter. By one account there is a herd of 14 but I think they must split up at night as I have only seen 4 at one time at Ivy House. Unfortunately they seem to like plum trees and have killed 3 trees that we planted last year.

Of larger birds we have had a woodcock sheltering in the woodland and a cock pheasant frequently roams through.

NATURE NOTES – FROM TOFFLING

Toffling Hill Reserve has been left alone this Winter. The apple orchard has suffered some damage from rabbit and roe deer activity but otherwise the site looks good. Repeated topping for 3 years has produced tussocky dry grassland with large areas of Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) flowering profusely from April into Summer. As a site for bees it is taking shape.



Although called Ground-ivy it is not related to ivy. It is a Labiate, related to the mints and dead nettles.



The area around the pond has an increasing population of Cuckoo-flower, *Cardamine pratensis*, a food plant for Orange-tip.

Peter J Cook

Memorable Wildlife Moments

It is always memorable to see anything for the first time in your life, but I think that most of our members would say that seeing a species of wildlife for the first time is extra special, particularly if it is in the area where you live. Over the last year during the lock-downs, I have had the time to search back through my notes of wildlife sightings recorded over the last 40 years and found myself reminiscing about some of those memorable moments of my first sightings in South Holderness. I have therefore selected a few of these records to share with you, mainly to show what can be found in this area, but also in the hope that it will encourage other members to enlighten us on their memorable wildlife moments, whether local or elsewhere in the world.

1. **Little Tern** - 25/05/80 - Easington Lagoons - 6 birds, first-ever sightings, displaying and searching for nesting sites, usually a scrape on the beach.
2. **Bee Orchid** - 5/07/81 - Saltend - 3 plants found on wasteland previously used as railway sidings. First-ever sighting.
3. **Green Heron** - 29/11/82 - Stone Creek - First-ever sighting. Immature bird in dyke near to Keyingham Drain. North American bird. Many twitchers visiting. Stayed until 2/12/82.
4. **Kingfisher** - 12/04/84 - Stone Creek - flashed past me on walk towards Sunk Island, found again after long search, perched on branch over dyke.
5. **Clouded Yellow Butterfly** - 13/08/84 - Saltend - First-ever sighting - flying over wasteland finally settling on Knapweed flower.
6. **Water Rail** - 28/11/89 - Haverfield Quarry, Welwick - First-ever sighting, suddenly appeared out of reed bed in front of hide, stayed 5 minutes approx. before returning into reeds.
7. **Waxwing** - 7/09/96 - Thorngumbald - 1 bird in tree on corner with road to Cherry Cob, stayed for 1 hour approx. My first South Holderness sighting.
8. **Green Hairstreak Butterfly** - 1/06/99 - Spurn - First-ever sighting on Elder, near point.
9. **Avocet** - 22/06/03 - Paull Wetlands - 4 birds on newly created local reserve, significant, having now spread north from East Anglia where they returned to the UK in 1947 after an absence of 100 years and are currently to be found along most of the east coast of England.
10. **Red Kite** - 23/03/18 - Thorngumbald - 1 bird, first sighting above house, significant in that at the time of my first- ever sighting in Mid Wales in 1982, it was thought only 30 pairs existed in UK. Current UK population believed to be 1800 pairs after re-introduction schemes in 1990s..

Alan Burnham - May 2021.

Updates from Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve

Just a few bits about Hollym Carrs. After a very wet winter things have gone the other way and a prolonged dry spell in April has meant the site is currently very dry although it is raining today. Let's hope the plants begin to grow now.

We did have some unwanted visitors during the Easter holiday, even though it was still lockdown. A group of individuals decided to have a BBQ on the reserve and left a real mess for us to tidy up. We hope this is a one-off but there are people out there who do not respect anything. We have made an extra effort to visit the reserve more and keep it as tidy as possible to show we care about it. There is also a concealed trail camera to keep an eye on the place too. If you see anything unusual please let us know. A more sinister event happened recently when people with dogs were seen possibly hunting in the area. Hunting is not allowed on Hollym Carrs so once again we need people to be vigilant and call the police if there is anyone on the reserve with dogs off leads hunting. Never attempt to tackle these people as they are very dangerous individuals. Responsible dog owners will have their dogs on a lead...

We keen to make sure visitors know who owns the reserve and with this in mind we got some small discs with the logo and name of the society on them. I made a wooden sign for the kissing gate (pictured) so people know the site is being looked after and by whom.

The lock-down did stop our task days but we hope to have some more dates for the summer months to help manage the reserve.

A date for your diary is Friday June 25th. We will be having a walk to Hollym Carrs that evening starting at 6.30pm. Meet at Ivy House for 6.30pm and we will begin walking along South Carr Dales Road by 7pm. The walk is about 1.2miles to the reserve, a 1 mile walk around the reserve and 1.2 miles back. If you need to be closer we can make arrangements for 3 vehicles to get to the reserve and park off the Public Bridleway. Let me know if you require access to the reserve on the night (Andy Mason – andymace2305@yahoo.co.uk). Please bring stout footwear, a torch and dress in accordance with the weather forecast. If it is too wet we will postpone. Here's hoping we find lots of plants and animals on this event. If conditions are warm we will also put on our moth trap and see what turns up. It is hoped to finish by 10.30pm at the latest.



Water Rails Breeding at Hollym Carrs

In early May 2019 I visited Hollym Carrs Nature Reserve. On reaching Smess Pond I could hear what I thought was a Water Rail calling, not the familiar squealing, but short repeated 'kip kip' calls. As I approached the edge of the pond I could see an adult Water Rail, just visible through the *Phragmites* stems. Suddenly, the unmistakable tiny, long-legged, white-billed, black downy form of a Water Rail chick scampered across the pond in full view before disappearing into the maze of reed stems. I returned later with my trail camera, set it to record 30 second video clips, and positioned it in a secluded position at the water's edge. I was hoping to find out more about these Water Rails so, apart from a two week break in August, the camera was set to continuously record anything passing in front of it up to mid-September. This obviously allowed me to gain an insight into the range of creatures visiting the pond, as well as giving me opportunity for a regular walk around the reserve when I changed the memory card every few days.



Water Rail adult (above) and juvenile (left). Photos taken at Patrington Haven and Kilnsea.



The first memory card revealed that a pair of Water Rails had hatched a brood of five chicks. As they grew, they clearly became more independent, gradually appearing as just single birds in front of the camera. It was, therefore, impossible to work out how many chicks survived to fledging. While these chicks were growing and becoming more independent, the parents had been busy, as, on 28 June, a video clip revealed an adult with five tiny chicks. Another clip, recorded half an hour later, showed a complete family of two adults with eight chicks. In mid-September the camera was still recording juvenile Water Rails.

The trail camera was triggered on numerous occasions by other animals and birds, usually drinking or feeding, including Roe Deer, Wood Mouse, Brown Rat, Wood Pigeon, Pheasant, Snipe, Moorhen and Blackbird. Perhaps the most unexpected was an Otter at 2am on 23 July, although unfortunately, only its rear half was recorded due to the lag between the camera being triggered and the recording beginning.

I did not see a Water Rail 'in the flesh' after that first encounter, thus demonstrating, firstly, how difficult it is to prove breeding by elusive species, and secondly, from video clips of other species, the value of trail cameras in helping to unlock the secrets of a site 24 hours a day.

David Constantine

Wildlife at Hollym Carrs - Spring and early Summer

Highlighted here is some of the varied wildlife that I encountered on the reserve, up to the end of June 2019, during my visits to check my trail camera (see previous page). Roe Deer (below left) were regularly seen but were usually very shy, especially when taken by surprise. Likewise, Brown Hares

(below) tended to emerge to feed in the grassy areas, including the access bridleway, during the evening. A Fox was seen briefly only twice.



Two reptile species seem to have established themselves. Having been seen sporadically in previous years, Common Lizards (below) were seen on warm sunny days at several locations along 'Failey's Way'. They seemed to prefer basking on the large hay bales and on piles of



dried grass cuttings alongside the track. Breeding was confirmed with the sighting of tiny fleet-footed versions of the adults. A basking, freshly moulted, Grass Snake was a pleasant surprise in mid-May and in late June another, much larger and presumably female, was seen basking in the same area (see front cover). The mixture of aquatic and rough grassland habitats suite this species well.

During May the Burnham Meadow was decorated with swathes of flowering Lady's Smock, also known as Cuckoo Flower, for the larva of Orange-



(below right), one of the food plants tip butterflies (a male, below left).





By the end of May the grassland in the ride below the power lines (left) had a fine display of wild flowers including Meadow Buttercup, Tufted Vetch and Red Clover. Elsewhere there were isolated groups of Common Spotted Orchids (right) in bloom in late June.



During the early summer, numerous and easily seen on the tracks, especially near Smess Pond. Only one Blue-tailed Damselfly was seen, clasped in the bill of a Reed Warbler which was about to feed its young!

Azure Damselflies (left) were and around vegetation along

Several Warbler species probably bred on the reserve including Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Sedge Warbler, which were all singing during the spring. A single singing Whitethroat and at least three singing Reed Warblers were confirmed as breeding successfully when both species were seen



feeding young. Young Reed Warblers (far left) leave their nests before they can fly and are known as 'hoppers' as they move between reed stems waiting to be fed by their parents (left). Apart from common species, such as Robin, Blue Tit (adult and chick below), Wren and Blackbird, breeding by Bullfinch (two pairs), Long-tailed Tit and Goldfinch was also confirmed.

There have been regular sightings of Buzzards over and around Hollym Carrs for some years now, following their very rapid range expansion in the last few decades. They probably breed nearby. Who would have thought 30 years ago that Buzzards soaring over a new woodland in South Holderness would be a daily occurrence now? They were certainly enjoyed by this particular observer.



David Constantine

PUBLICATIONS

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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 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.



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Position	Name	Telephone
Chairman	Tracey Netherton	01964 623261
Vice Chairman	Vacant	
Hon. General Secretary	Fred Kennedy	01964 671492
Treasurer	Peter Cook	01964 614466
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Elected Member	Andrew Mason	01482 817835
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[All membership payments to Denise please.](#)

