

# **CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'**

## **FIELD CLUB**



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Volume 9 Part 3**

**Spring 2009**

## THE OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2009-2010

President. Vic Fairbrother, 8 Whitby Avenue, Guisborough, TS14 7AP.  
Secretary. Eric Gendle, 13 Mayfield Road, Nunthorpe, TS7 0ED.  
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Programme Secretaries. Vincent Jones, 'Hillways', Ingleby Greenhow, TS9  
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Neil Baker, 10 Smithfield Road, Darlington, DL1 4DD.

The immediate past president. Dorothy Thompson.

Ordinary members. Ian Lawrence, David Barlow, Paul Forster, Jo Scott.

### Consultant Members

The following members will be pleased to assist in the identification of specimens.

Flowering Plants	Bryophytes	Birds	Lepidoptera
Ian Lawrence	John	Maurice	Malcolm Birtle
Vince Jones	Blackburn	Hallam	(and Geology), Eric Gendle

### Representatives

I. C. Lawrence (TVWT)	J. Blackburn (YNU)
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### Membership Details

The Club seeks to promote an interest in all branches of Natural History and to assist members in finding out about the living things that they see in the countryside around them. The present membership includes those who have particular interests in birds, insects, slugs and snails, lichens, fungi, flowering plants and mosses and liverworts. Members with interests in other fields would be very welcome.

In spring and summer there are evening, half-day and whole-day visits to investigate the natural history of a particular area. During the winter months there is a series of meetings held in the Hydroponicum Lecture Hall at Natures World, Ladgate Lane, Acklam, Middlesbrough. If you have any difficulty getting to this venue, please speak to any committee member and we will see if we can arrange a lift for you. A meeting usually takes the form of a lecture given by a club member or visiting speaker. The annual subscription is £5.

Any person interested in joining the Cleveland Naturalists Field Club should send their subscription to the Membership Secretary. Potential members are welcome to our field meetings listed at the back of this issue.

Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st January each year.

(Adult £5. 00. Students under 18 yrs. £1. 00)

Members are entitled to attend meetings of:

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

The Ramblers' Association.

The Club is affiliated to these organisations.

## **President's Address: 2009.**

I am very pleased to be able to present this report on another very interesting year in the life of the Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club as it continues to explore the natural history of Cleveland and the surrounding countryside. A programme of twenty-eight field trips in 2008 provided a wide variety of records and experiences and the highlights are described in more detail in the Annual Record of Proceedings.

Members enjoyed four evening walks featuring Pinchinthorpe, Cowbar & Dalehouses, Flatts Lane and Hazel Grove, Saltburn. There was also an afternoon visit to Bishop Middleham Quarry. Local venues for full day visits included Lazenby Bank for Tom Kirby's fungus foray and Liverton for an insight into the "lost meadows" project. Travelling north we visited Weardale, Blast Beach & Hawthorne Hive, Seaham and Cockfield & Evenwood in County Durham. Visits to Malhamdale, Hubberholme and Coverdale ensured that the Yorkshire Dales were well represented whilst further south there was much to appreciate during visits to Masham, Pry Rigg and Yearsley Moor. The North York Moors again featured strongly with visits to Roxby Woods, East Arncliffe Wood, Littlebeck, Runswick Bay, Bransdale, Caydale Mill, Whisperdale, Riccal Dale, Castleton & Commondale and Grosmont & Goathland. Our joint meeting with the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union was again organised by John Blackburn and this year was held at Hawnby.

The indoor programme of ten meetings was well supported throughout the winter. Professor John Edwards described the monitoring and conservation of birds on Fylingdales Moor and Steve Kirtley provided an insight into the changing fortunes of the butterflies of Northern England. A memorable master class on the Orchids of the British Isles was provided by Sidney Clarke. The puzzles prepared by Joan Bradbury assisted by Norma Pagdin provided the usual perplexing centrepiece to the Christmas social evening. As always Club members contributed strongly to the lecture programme. Paul Forster described the rigours and rituals of life as a BTO ringer based in the Isle of May Lighthouse. Judy Dinwiddie gave us a glimpse of South America with a wildlife tour of Chile and Argentina. Norman Thompson delivered a delightful and evocative talk on Nature in Poetry. On Members Night Paul Forster presented a photographic record of some of our 2008 field trips plus a few diversions and Eric Gendle gave us a tantalising glimpse of the orchids of Rhodes. The AGM is to be followed by short presentations from Norma Pagdin & Joan Bradbury; Bill Hall and Neil Heaton. The indoor programme at Natures World will conclude with a talk by Jane Jopling on the AGS expedition to Tibet.

We were pleased to be invited to organise the annual Elgee Lecture again this year. This was held at the Dorman Museum on 28<sup>th</sup> November and Sir John Lawton, CBE, FRS gave a stimulating and thought provoking talk to a responsive audience on the theme of Nature Conservation and Climate Change.

Following suggestions by members two new items of equipment have been purchased. The club mobile phone is intended to provide a constant point of contact with field trips (reception permitting) and the new sound system aims to ensure the audibility of speakers at our indoor meetings.

David Barlow has continued to manage our website, adding new material provided by members and this has proved to be a very productive point of contact with the wider naturalist community. The Natural History Museum in London has asked for permission to scan early issues of our Record of Proceedings and also invited us to participate in their Opal Project. In a separate development the National Trust has sought our assistance in providing records from their North York Moors and Coast properties. Malcolm Birtle reports that our own project to scan back issues of our Record of Proceedings is nearing completion.

Many people have contributed to the success of the club in the last year including those members who have planned and led field trips and those who have given talks at indoor meetings. The smooth running of the club is ensured by the commitment and enthusiasm of the small team of volunteers who give their time to make all the necessary arrangements. These are Eric Gendle, Secretary who also makes available and operates the projector; Colin Chatto, Treasurer who also organises and prepares the meeting room; Vincent Jones & Neil Baker, Programme Secretaries; Jean McLean, Membership Secretary; David Barlow, Website Manager; Malcolm Birtle, Editor of Record of Proceedings; and committee members Ian Lawrence, Jo Scott and Paul Forster. Two much appreciated members Alick Hunter and Maurice Hallam retired from the committee this year. Our Past President, Dorothy Thompson, has continued to host our committee meetings in her own inimitable style. I would like to thank them all for their support during the past year, my role as President has been so much easier because of their quiet unassuming efficiency and I would ask you to show your appreciation of all their efforts on our behalf.

Vic. Fairbrother.

### **Highlights of 2008 Field Meetings**

#### **Saturday, 15th March, Roxby Woods.**

Eleven members enjoyed quite pleasant weather on the first walk of the season and saw the usual early Spring woodland flowers such as Primrose, Violet and Moschatel. A number of snails was seen including the hairy snail *Ashfordia* (*Monacha*?) *granulata*. Also found was the bright green larva of a hoverfly, which looked more like a grass seed than a fly larva! It was bred out by Malcolm Birtle & proved to be the very common *Melanostoma scalare*?

A cool, overcast, still day welcomed the party on a walk from Dalehouse through Oakrigg Wood then west to Roxby and Roxby Woods. Perhaps suprisingly for the time of year fungi were noticeable in AokRigg Wood including *Nectria coccinea* (Beech Bark Disease), *Exidia glandulosa* (Black Witches Butter) and *Hypoxolon fuscum* (Hazel Woodwart), Some interesting molluscs also made an appearance in Oakrigg including-*Ashfordia ganulata*, *Oxychilus alliarius* (Garlic Snail), *Carychium* sp., *Balea perversa*, *Leiostyla*

*anglica* (English Chrysalis Snail) and *Discus rotundatus*. A dead Hare was found, perhaps a casualty after running into the wire fence it lay beside. *Sarcoscypha coccinea* (Scarlet Elf Caps) showed well in Roxby Wood.

### **Saturday, 5th April, Masham.**

10 members enjoyed a pleasant walk by the River Ure, followed by a look over Marfield Wetlands Nature Reserve. The usual early spring flowers, such as *Ranunculus ficaria* (Lesser Celandine), *Mercurialis perennis* (Dogs Mercury), *Glechoma hederacea* (Ground Ivy), *Allium ursinum* (Ramsons), *Primula vulgaris* (Primrose) and *Adoxa moschatellina* (Moschatel) were noted by the river, along with fungi such as *Daldinia concentrica* (King Alfred's Cakes) and *Exidia glandulosa* (Witches Butter), along with *Capaea hortensis* (White Lipped Banded Snail).

At the nature reserve *Viola odorata* (Sweet Violet) and *Primula veris* (Cowslip) were also noted. Birds: Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Sand Martin, Swallow, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long Tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Reed Bunting, Yellow Hammer, Linnet, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Pheasant, Red Legged Partridge, Wood Pigeon, Carrion Crow, Rook, Jackdaw, Mallard, Teal, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Shelduck, Little Grebe, Great-crested grebe, Moorhen, Grey lags, Canada Geese, Black-headed Gull, Mute Swan, Coot, Lapwing, Curlew, Oyster Catcher. As the walk had finished early, most members went on to Nosterfields Gravel Pits Nature Reserve where a wide range of waders were in view, the extensive lakes produced a multitude of wetland birds. Three members who lingered on were rewarded with the sight of a pair of Avocets.

### **Saturday, 19th April, East Arnecliff Wood.**

Nuthatch, Dipper, Grey wagtail, Greenfinch, Coal Tit, Chaffinch, Robin, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Great Tit, Long Tailed Tit, Willow Tit, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Fieldfare, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker, Lapwing, Curlew, Snipe, Pheasant, Kestrel, Crow, Jackdaw, Goldfinch, Wren, Dunnock, Meadow Pipit, Black-headed Gull, Greater Black Backed Gull, Herring Gull, Tree Creeper, Magpie, Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove, Pied Wagtail

### **Wednesday, 7th May, Pinchinthorpe.**

14 members attended this evening meeting which met at the Pinchinthorpe railway car park for a walk through the woods surrounding Hutton Village. The party wandered slowly from Pinchingthorpe Station through Bousdale Wood returning through Home Farm on a sunny warm still evening. *Arianta arbustorum* (Copse Snail) was noticed. Early woodland flowers were seen including *Taraxacum lamprophyllum*. Large specimens of *Panaeolus semiovatus* (Egghead mottlegill fungus) were found growing on a very large manure heap.

### **Sunday, 11th May, Cowshill Weardale.**

It was a beautiful Spring morning when 15 members met at Cowshill close to the head of Weardale. At home, in and around Teesside, the daffodils were over and the spring flowers were in bloom. Here, in the middle

of the Pennines, there were Coltsfoot still in flower near to the small car park from where we commenced our walk. On the opposite side of the track we found *Cystopteris fragilis* (Brittle Bladder Fern), *Asplenium trichomanes* (Maidenhair Spleenwort), *Equisetum palustre* (Marsh Horsetail) and *Rhytidiadelphus squamosus* (moss).

Our track started to climb to the top of the moor. We were following the Lead Miner's Trail and there was plenty of evidence of the remains of old spoil heaps, together with some interesting geological specimens. Curlew, lapwing and wheatear were around and the larks were singing high in the blue sky. At our feet were *Carex paniculata* (Tussock Sedge) and *Carex nigra* (Common Sedge). By the side of the track there were plenty of *Viola lutea* (mountain pansies) in 3 colour forms – some were purple, others were yellow and some were part purple, part yellow. Several violets were found including *Viola palustris* (Marsh Violet).

As we dropped down to the valley thunder started to rumble around. We were lucky, we didn't get wet, but it was reported afterwards that there had been a downpour at Killhope which was only a few miles away. *Eriophorum vaginatum* (Horsetail Cottongrass) was seen and two varieties of lady's mantle – *Alchemilla glabra*, with no hairs, and *A. filicaulis ssp vestita*. Close to the hamlet of East Blackdene we saw a nice cushion of *Minuartia verna* (Spring Sandwort) covered in pure white flowers.

Our path then followed the Weardale Way along the bank of the river. Here the path was lined with the beautiful common spring flowers – *Primula vulgaris* (Primrose), *Primula veris* (Cowslip), *Caltha palustris* (Marsh Marigold), *Anemone nemorosa* (Wood Anemone), *Chrysosplenium sp.* (Golden Saxifrage). We almost lost members who were photographing butterflies – *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell), *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip) and *Pieris napi* (Green Veined White). We also saw *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* (Good King Henry), *Geranium lucidum* (Shining Cranesbill), *Cochlearia officinalis* (Common Scurvy- Grass) and *Trifolium medium* (Zigzag Clover).

From one of the bridges over the river we spotted a dipper flying downstream. As we returned to Cowshill we found *Polyporus squamosus* (Dryads Saddle), a huge fungus which was growing halfway up the trunk of a tree. Greater Spotted Woodpecker and Spotted Flycatcher were also noted.

### **Sunday, 18th May, Hubberholme.**

12 members climbed the path from the church up between Rais Wood and Hubberholme Wood to Scar House at 350m before traversing above Strans Wood for the gradual descent to Yockenthwaite. The riverside path was then followed to Deepdale Bridge before crossing to the opposite bank of the Wharfe for the return to Yockenthwaite Bridge and another riverside path back to Hubberholme.

*Carex caryophyllea* (Spring Sedge), *Cirsium heterophyllum* (Melancholy Thistle), *Scabiosa columbaria* (Small Scabious) and *Arabis hirsuta* (Hairy Rock-cress) were early records and *Orchis mascula* (Early Purple Orchid) was in profusion.

A careful search of the calcareous flushes on the lower slopes of Horsehead revealed much of interest including *Primula farinosa* (Birdseye Primrose), *Valeriana dioica* (Marsh Valerian), *Pinguicula vulgaris* (Common Butterwort),

*Carex nigra* (Common Sedge), *Carex dioica* (Dioecious Sedge) and *Selaginella selaginoides* (Lesser Clubmoss).

*Hieracium vulgatum f. vulgatum*, *H. argillaceum* and *H. oistophyllum* were found on limestone scars. A small spotted-leaved form of *H. duriceps* was observed in good flower on limestone rocks by the River Wharfe at Yockenthwaite. This form is unusual, but the normal form occurs occasionally on the limestone of northern England and is more common, particularly by the burns in Scotland.

A soaring Buzzard was admired and at Deepdale Bridge a Sparrowhawk was observed carrying prey. Riverside birds included Grey Wagtail, Common Sandpiper and 3 Dippers whilst Swifts, Swallows and House Martins seemed to be finding plenty of food. A Green Woodpecker added a welcome touch of colour. Sadly *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell) and *Pieris napi* (Green-veined White) provided the only butterfly records of the day.

On the journey home a short diversion was made to the Old Glebe Field at Wensley where Cowslips in great profusion sheltered countless *Orchis moris* (Green-winged Orchids), at least 20 specimens of *Orchis ustulata* (Burnt-tip Orchid) and many *Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade). This delightful meadow in the late afternoon sun was like a vision from a bygone age.

#### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 10:30 am Coverdale, leader Vic.Fairbrother.**

A steep angled climb from Horsehouse took the party over several boggy areas to Swineside at about 300m where a lane led to West Scrafton and the descent to Caygill Bridge. Here a short climb soon brought us to a series of recently mown fields on the approach to Gammersgill before a short descent took us back along the banks of the river Cover to Horsehouse.

Botanical interest proved to be minimal but the very hot day provided some welcome butterfly records including 6 *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), 2 *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skippers), 12 *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlets), *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell), *Pieris napi* (Green-veined White), *Pieris rapae* (Small White) and *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood).

The farm Swallows seemed to have had a good year in the dale and it was encouraging to count over 70 Lapwings.

#### **Wednesday, 21st May, 6:30 pm, Cowbar and Dalehouses.**

A cool, clear evening with a sea breeze. The party proceeded from Cowbar along the cliff road west to Red House Farm, then along the old lane to Dalehouse, to Staithes and back to Cowbar. House Martins were flying very low and landing at times. Kittiwakes were on the cliff with Jackdaws, and Fulmars. Skylarks were singing above the clifftop. A large patch of *Carex nigra* (Common Sedge) was found growing by the main roadside. A number of interesting things were found in the old lane including the molluscs *Arianta arbustorum* (Copse Snail), *Cepaea nemoralis* (Brown Lipped Banded Snail), and *Discus rotundatus*, the flowering plants and fern *Pentaglottis sempervirens* (Green Alkanet), *Geum rivale x urbanum* (*G. x intermedium*) (Hybrid Avens), *Geranium phaeum* (Dusky Cranesbill), *Oxalis acetosella* (Wood Sorrel), *Asplenium scolopendrium* (Hartstongue), *Ajuga reptans* (Bugle), *Stellaria neglecta* (Greater Chickweed) and large numbers of *Orchis*

*mascula* (Early Purple Orchid). At Dalehouse Aroe Deer was seen on the opposite bank of the stream amongst longer vegetation. At the top of Staithe Bank adjacent to the allotments *Fumaria capreolata* (White Ramping Fumitory) was cascading over the fence.

### **Wednesday, 28th May, Pry Rigg.**

### **Wednesday, 4th June, 10:30 am, Malhamdale.**

Just 5 members made the long trip to Malhamdale. We were lucky with the weather as it was a nice sunny day without much breeze in the middle of an otherwise unsettled period.

Our first port of call, after leaving Malham village, was Janet's Foss with its lovely shaded pool and delightful waterfall. On the way, we passed many common plants typical of the area, including Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*) and Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*). At Janet's Foss itself a solitary Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) butterfly was flying and there were a few hawkweeds to admire.

We then walked to the impressive Gordale Scar with its soaring sheer cliff faces. On the way, we spotted Wood Cranesbill (*Geranium sylvaticum*), Marsh Hawksbeard (*Crepis paludosa*), Rock Rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) and Tower Cress (*Arabis turrata*).

Some of the party scrambled up the waterfall at Gordale Scar and others made their way round by an alternative and altogether easier route. We rendezvoused again on the grassland just before the limestone pavement area where we rested for our lunch. There were good displays of yellow Mountain Pansy (*Viola lutea*) and common orchids in the area. While taking lunch, one of our party recognised the unmistakable sound (to him at least) of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), and we were lucky enough to see a pair of them flying high over Gordale Scar.

We walked on over the limestone pavement towards Malham Tarn. In the grikes, we found Green Spleenwort (*Asplenium viride*) and Hart's Tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*). We also spotted Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) flitting about as we got closer to the tarn.

In close proximity to Malham Tarn, we found Bird's-Eye Primrose (*Primula farinosa*), Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) and Cotton Grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), together with Yellow Sedge (*Carex viridula*). There were Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*) to be seen and, on the tarn itself, there were Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) and Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*).

As we walked through the wooded area by the side of the tarn to the field centre we spotted a Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). This was quite close and so still that at first sight it was like some sort of life size nature sculpture placed there by a modern wild life artist. However, on closer examination, it could be seen that it was both real and alive. It was contentedly feeding and



not particularly bothered by our presence, so it made a good subject for some camera shots.

We had a permit to visit Tarn Moss, so we walked on past the field centre into that area. There were Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) butterflies to be seen, and a Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*).

As we walked along the excellent board walk path through the heart of Tarn Moss, we noted Marsh Valerian (*Valeriana dioica*), Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Lesser Tussock Sedge (*Carex diandra*), Hare's-tail (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), Tea-leaved Willow (*Salix phylicifolia*), Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) and Early-purple Orchids (*Orchis mascula*).

We had already had Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*), but then the same club member who had earlier demonstrated a good ear for birds showed a keen eye for them too, when he drew the attention of the rest of us to a Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) to be seen flying not very high above us. We were all rewarded with an excellent view of this lovely but seldom seen falcon.

As we left Tarn Moss to take the road to Water Sinks and Watlowes, we saw an unusual sight with in the region of about 200 Curlews (*Numenius arquata*) all in the air at the same time, soaring over Malham Tarn. None had been spotted earlier, so clearly something had happened to cause them all to take off together, but whatever it was remains a mystery.

We walked through Watlowes and on to the magnificent Malham Cove. On the way we spotted Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) butterflies, a pair of Mistle Thrushes (*Turdus viscivorus*) and Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*).

In the grikes in the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove we found Baneberry (*Actaea spicata*) in flower. We also noticed Limestone Bedstraw (*Galium sternerii*) and Shining Cranesbill (*Geranium lucidum*) and we also spotted some Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeus*) butterflies.

The RSPB were in evidence at the base of the cove with their powerful telescopes trained on the nesting pair of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) high on a deep ledge on the cliff face. It is quite possible that this was the same pair we had seen at Gordale Scar. We took advantage of the telescopes for a close look at the pair, along with other visitors that the RSPB were helping.

We returned to Malham village after a very long walk and a tiring day, where we were rewarded with a refreshing pot of tea to revive us all, courtesy of our very generous president.

### **Sunday, 8th June, Blast Beach and Hawthorn Hive.**

A perfect hot sunny day greeted the party at Nose's Point. We descended to Blast Beach where *Polymmatius icarus* (Common Blue) and *Coenonympha*

*pamphilus* (Small Heath) were flying freely, amongst the usual coastal limestone vegetation including many *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Spotted Orchid), *Blackstonia perfoliata* (Yellowwort), (Hemp Agrimony), *Pulicaria dysenterica* (Fleabane), *Geranium sanguineum* (Bloody Cranesbill), *Sanguisorba minor* (Salad Burnet) and *Plantago maritima*. (Sea Plantain). Fulmars, Linnets and Jackdaws were around the cliffs, and Cormorant offshore. However, the most important find was *Platyarthrus hoffmanseggi* (White Wood Louse) under boulders amongst ants' nests. See below for full report. Another significant find was *Genista tinctoria* (Dyers Greenweed) which was confined to a few plants at the base of the cliff. However, a few weeks later hundreds of plants were in flower on the clifftop. It was noticeable that rockfalls were bringing down interesting vegetation from the clifftop that was then colonising into the colliery waste on the beach.

The party then returned to the clifftop and proceeded to Hawthorn Hive. *Anthocharis cardamines* (OrangeTip) and *Lasiommata megera* (Wall) flew past. *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) and *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel) were noted in passing along the track. At Hawthorn Denemouth *Odezia atrata* (Chimney Sweep) and *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood) were in flight.

The beaches along the Durham coast are changing rapidly due to the cessation of mining and the consequent dumping of spoil onto the foreshore. Erosion of the colliery spoil is exposing the cliffs to renewed erosion as the protection by the spoil is removed. It was therefore thought worthwhile to produce a more extensive list of finds from Hawthorn Hive for future comparative purposes. The following were noted in the Hive between the clifftop and the beach proper.

*Cicindela campestris* ( Green Tiger Beetle )  
*Polyommatus icarus* ( Common Blue )  
*Polygala vulgaris* ( Milkwort )  
*Briza media* ( Quaking Grass )  
*Lasiommata megera* ( Wall )  
*Coenonympha pamphilus* ( Small Heath )  
*Sanguisorba minor* ( Salad Burnet )  
*Carlina vulgaris* ( Carline Thistle )  
*Echium vulgare* ( Vipers Bugloss )  
*Fragaria vesca* ( Wild Strawberry )  
*Lotus corniculatus* ( Birds Foot Trefoil )  
*Primula veris* ( Cowslip )  
*Rhinanthus minor* ( Yellow Rattle )  
*Teucrium scorodonia* ( Sage )  
*Tussilago farfara* ( Coltsfoot )  
*Vicia sepium* ( Bush Vetch )  
*Dactylorhiza fuchsii* ( Spotted Orchid )  
*Mercurialis perennis* ( Dogs Mercury )  
*Dryopteris filix-mas* ( Male Fern )  
*Acer pseudoplatanus* ( Sycamore )  
*Crataegus monogyna* ( Hawthorn )  
*Rosa canina agg.* ( DogRose )  
*Impatiens glandulifera* ( Himalayan Balsam )  
*Phyllitis scolopendrium* ( HartsTongue )

*Filipendula ulmaria* ( MeadowSweet )  
*Tanacetum vulgare* ( Tansy )  
*Ameria maritima* ( Thrift )  
*Silene vulgaris* ( Bladder Campion )  
*Silene dioica* ( Red Campion )  
*Urtica urens* ( Nettle )  
*Cirsium arvense* ( Creeping Thistle )  
*Geranium robertianum* ( Herb Robert )  
*Polypodium vulgare* ( Polypody )  
*Helianthemum nummularium* ( RockRose )  
*Lonicera periclymenum* ( Honeysuckle )  
*Listera ovata* (Twayblade)

### **Wednesday, 11th June, Bishop Middleham Quarry.**

On a dull afternoon a small group set off into the quarry reserve. At first, walking through woodland to get to the quarry floor *Geranium robertianum* (Herb Robert), *Geum urbanum* (Wood Avens), and *Sanicula europaea* (Sanicle) were among the woodland species noted.

We spent a lot of time working our way around the quarry floor while *Emberiza citrinella* (Yellow Hammer) and *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Willow Warbler) sang from the scrub. *Lotus corniculatus* (Birds Foot Trefoil), *Polygala vulgaris* (Milkwort), *Thymus praecox* (Thyme), *Veronica officinalis* (Heath Speedwell), *Sanguisorba minor* (Salad Burnet), and *Cruciata laevipes* (Crosswort) were among the plants that carpeted the quarry floor while *Helianthemum nummularium* (Yellow rockrose) grew on the rocky outcrops and quarry walls. We spent some time identifying the orchids seen, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid), *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (Northern Marsh Orchid) and their various hybrids and *Listera ovata* (Twayblade). The Helliborine *Epipactis atrorubens* (Dark Red Helleborines) were not quite in flower, but there were many plants with buds waiting to open. Only a few butterflies were seen *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Small Heath), both male and female *Polyommatus icarus* (Common Blue) and *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood) braved the dull weather.

We climbed to the top of the quarry to find a mass of *Centranthus ruber* (Red Valerian) clinging to a rock face. Those among us with good eyesight spotted minute plants of *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) growing on the rocky floor. *Centaureum erythraea* (Common Centaury), *Briza media* (Quaking Grass) and *Anthyllis vulneraria* (Kidney Vetch) were among the plants seen as we made our way back to the cars. Other plants noted were *Veronica chamaedrys* (Germander Speedwell), *Fragaria vesca* (Wild Strawberry), *Vicia sepium* (Bush Vetch), *Ulex europaeus* (Gorse), *Trifolium pratense* (Red Clover), *Primula veris* (Cowslip), *Reseda luteola* (Weld), *Medicago lupulina* (Black Medick), *Silene vulgaris* (Bladder Campion), and *Cerastium fontanum* (Mouse-ear chickweed).

### **Wednesday, 18th June, Littlebeck.**

On a cool day which threatened rain the party set out for Falling Foss where *Blechnum spicant* (Hard Fern), *Lysimachia nemorum* (Yellow Pimpernel), *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid), and *Sanicula europaea* (Sanicle) were seen. From there the party walked to Parsely Beck Reservoir

accompanied by Damselflies, the hoverflies *Episyrphus balteatus*, *Melanostoma scalare*, *Anthophila fabriciana* (NettleTap) and passing a *Malus sylvestris* (Domestic Apple Tree). A brood of Canada Geese were on the water. Heavy rain then followed which gave everyone a good soak before clearing as the party headed for Littlebeck noting a *Perizoma didymata* (Twin Spot Carpet) on the way, and noting *Tamus communis* (Black Bryony) in a hedge. Curlew were calling in the fields. Pararge aegeria (Speckled Wood) was in flight in Littlebeck Wood and *Claytonia sibirica* (Pink Purslane) was in flower. A Dipper was seen in the beck with Grey Wagtail.

### **Sunday, 29th June, Runswick Bay.**

### **Wednesday, 2nd July, Bransdale.**

Seven members gathered on a mild, dry, humid day to walk via East Moor wood, Snaper House and East Moors. The first findings were *Hieracium sabaudum*, and *Hieracium argillacium* along the footpath before the ford. . A search in the next meadow revealed *Leontodon saxatilis* (Lesser Hawkbit) , *Pilosella officinarum* (Mouse-ear Hawkweed), and good amounts of *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel). *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown) and a single *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood) were also seen in the area.

Walking on along a forest track a good mix of plants was seen including *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel), *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid), *Arenaria serpyllifolia ssp.leptoclados* (Thyme-leaved Sandwort), *Sherardia arvensis* (Field Madder), *Veronica officinalis* (Heath Speedwell) and the leaves of *Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian). A *Lycaena phlaeas* (Small Copper) was the only additional butterfly seen.

Lunch was taken above Bogmire Gill. Walking over the gill to a marshy area we saw *Galium palustre* (Marsh Bedstraw) , *Ranunculus flammula* (Lesser Spearwort), *Lychnis flosculi* (Ragged Robin.) and *Agrostis canina* (Velvet Bent grass.).

Moving on past Piethorne Farm we found an excellent boggy area with *Carex pulicaris* (Flea Sedge), *Triglochin palustris* (Marsh Arrowgrass), *Epilobium palustre* (Marsh Willowherb.), *Trientalis europea* (Chickweed Wintergreen), *Dryopteris carthusiana* (Narrow Buckler Fern) and best of all, *Veronica scutullata* (Marsh Speedwell.). A *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Small Heath) was also seen here.

Grasses found during the walk included *Glyceria fluitans* (Floating Sweet-grass.), and *Danthonia decumbens* (Heath Grass.).

We next took a little walked path through tall Heather and Bracken to reach Lund farm and the old church at Pockley to return to the start of the walk.

Birds seen and/or heard during the walk were, Green and Great-spotted Woodpeckers, Tawny Owl, Jay, Redstart, Whinchat, Curlew Common Snipe, Willow-warbler, Chiff-chaff, Blackcap and Yellow Hammer.

### **Sunday, 13th July, Caydale Mill.**

### **Wednesday, 16th July, Whisperdale.**

A group of 11 members enjoyed a walk into Whisperdale with a return through Lowdales. A diversion to a disused quarry produced a splendid sight of about 100 *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid), a solitary *Ophrys apifera* (Bee orchid) and a *Melanargia galathea*. (Marbled White) which settled for the photographers. Other highlights were 3 Buzzards soaring and calling overhead and numerous *Hypericum pulchrum* (Slender St John's Wort). Around the car parking area Vincent Jones showed the group the rare *Pyrola minor* (Common Wintergreen), whilst at the end of the walk the party drove to nearby Turkey Carpet to see *Pyrola media* (Intermediate Wintergreen), both Pyrolas being in good flower. At Turkey Carpet the party were able to sample the finest Wild Strawberries they had ever seen.

### **Wednesday, 23rd July, Flatts Lane.**

A well attended evening walk at Flatts Lane woodland park found a naturalised patch of *Geranium psilostrenom* (Armenium cranesbill) and later a second cranesbill *Geranium endressi* (French cranesbill). This was a hot, clear, still evening and the party walked west from Flatts Lane towards Ormesby Bank. *Hieracium aurantiacum* (Fox and Cubs), *Geranium psilostemon*, *Origanum marjorana* (Majoram), *Hypericum androsaemum* (Tutsan), *Vicia tetrasperma* (Smooth Tare), *Epilobium ciliatum* (American Willowherb), *Carex spicata* (Spiked Sedge), were in flower. *Olethreutes lacunana* (Indefinite Marble), *Anthophila fabriciana* (NettleTap), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), *Perizoma didymata* (Twin Spot Carpet), *Scotopteryx chenopodiata* (Shaded Broad Bar), and *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringlet). Were fluttering about. *Araniella cucurbitina* (Cucumber Spider) was noted. Roe Deer were seen running in the distance. A few specimens of Broad-leaved helleborine were discovered close to a rose hybrid *Rosa canina x caesia*. A good quantity of *Hordeum secalinum* (Meadow barley) was found on one of the grassy banks. One of the ponds on the site yielded *Glyceria notata* and nearby was found *Solidago gigantea* (Early golden-rod).

### **Sunday, 27th July, Coverdale.**

### **Wednesday, 30th July, Hazel Grove, Saltburn.**

Fourteen members turned out for the evening walk through Hazel Grove at Saltburn. It was a pleasantly warm evening while the sun was out, even though there was a slight sea breeze. We started off from outside Saltburn pier and made our way along the promenade at the base of the cliffs. There were many House Martins soaring about. The banks above the promenade to Hazel Grove, and the remnant dune vegetation on the beach were closely examined. There were Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*), Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*) and Small White (*Pieris rapae*) butterflies to be seen. There were some lovely Fragrant Orchids (*Gymnadenia conopsea*) growing among the grass, not very far up from the promenade. We also spotted Hairy Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*), Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Zigzag Clover (*Trifolium medium*).

At the end of the promenade we found Rough Sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleracea*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), the rarely seen Frosted Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*) and

the more common Spear-leaved Orache (*Atriplex prostrata*), Sea Sandwort (*Honckenya peploides*), Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris*) and Common Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*).

As we moved more into Hazel Grove, we spotted Harebells (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Sand Couch-grass (*Elytrigia juncea*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) and Burnet Rose (*Rosa spinosissima*). Even further in, we found Hoary Ragwort (*Senecio erucifolius*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), Rough Chervil (*Chaerophyllum temulum*), Lords-and-Ladies (*Arum maculatum*), Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*), Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*) and Hairy St. John's Wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*).

One excellent find, very well camouflaged against a gnarled and decaying old tree stump was an ordinary Magpie moth (*Abraxas grossulariata*).

As we made our way through the well-tended allotments at the top of the woods and along the path by the side of the railway back to where we had parked our cars, we also noticed Dryad's Saddle (*Polyporus squamosus*) fungus, Red Campion (*Melandrium rubrum*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Short-podded Willowherb (*Epilobium obscurum*), Hemp Agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).

All the members enjoyed the walk and were very pleased with what they had found in an easily accessible site not often visited by the club.

### **Wednesday, 6th August, Liverton.**

A warm, cloudy, humid day, that threatened rain, welcomed the party as we walked east out of the village. Poas umilis was noted on top of a wall, together with a soldier fly. *Rhingia campestris*, (Honey bee) *Olethreutes lacunana* (Indefinite Marble) and *Pieris napi* (Green Veined White) were very active amongst flowers growing on the lane, and a number of *Capaea nemoralis* (Brown Lipped Banded Snail) were also amongst the vegetation. *Anisantha diandra* (Great Brome), *Lamium hybridum* (Cut Leaved Deadnettle) were noted along the lane. *Coronopus squamatus* (Swine Cress) was found growing on bare ground around a gateway. As we entered the wood *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell), *Perizoma didymata* (Twin Spot Carpet), *Noctua pronuba* (Large Yellow Underwing) and the distinctive Muscid fly *Mesembrina meridiana* were active. *Xylaria polymorpha* (Dead Mens Fingers) were growing in a grassy hollow. *Festuca gigantea* (Giant Fescue), *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (False-brome) and *Bromopsis ramosa* (Hairy Brome) were growing in the wood.. The snails *Discus rotundatus* and *Trichia striolata* (Strawberry Snail) were found under logs, and amongst vegetation respectively. Other interesting species found were Frog, *Hydnum repandum* (Hedgehog Fungus), *Pyramidula rupestris*. (Rock Snail), *Polygonum arenastrum* (Equal-leaved Knotgrass). In open fields on return to the village *Gnaphalium uliginosum* (Marsh Cudweed), *Juncus bufonius* (Toad Rush) and *Euphorbia exigua* (Dwarf Spurge) were found. A Short Eared Owl was flushed from a hedgebank which had *Salix pentandra* (Bay Willow) growing in it.

A small party later visited Whaupley Moor to find *Lythrum portula* (Water Purslane), *Galium palustre* (Marsh Bedstraw), *Veronica scutellata* (Marsh Speedwell), *Apium inundatum* (Lesser Marshwort), *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel), *Achillea ptarmica* (Sneezewort), and *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* (Marsh Pennywort).

#### **Saturday, 9th August, Hawnby Estate.**

This was a YNU VC 62 meeting.

#### **Sunday, 17th August, Cockfield and Evenwood.**

A small group met on Cockfield Fell in torrential rain. A decision was made to abandon the planned excursion. A smaller group decided to try Winston Bridge it being a lower altitude and wooded providing some shelter. The day turned out sunny in the fullness of time and an interesting stroll around the Tees was the result. We walked upstream from Winston Bridge on the Durham side to Whorlton bridge. We returned mostly along the road through Ovington on the Yorkshire side. A runnel into the river was roaring with water. Jays were making a lot of noise in the woods. *Agrimony eupatoria* (Agrimony), *Hypericum pulchrum* (Slender St Johnswort), *Lysimachia vulgaris* (Yellow Loosestrife), *Eupatorium cannabinum* (Hemp Agrimony), *Leontodon autumnalis* (Autumnal Hawkbit), *Pilosella officinarum* (Mouse Eared Hawkweed), *Potentilla erecta* (Tormentil), *Succisa pratensis* (Devils Bit Scabious), *Hieracium sabaudum form sabaudum* and (Heath Speedwell), were in flower, and Aspen was seeding freely. *Polyporus squamosus* (Dryads Saddle) was seen growing on old wood. Given the recent rain a surprising number of butterflies were apparent including *Pieris napi* (Green Veined White), *Lasiommata megera* (Wall), *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood), *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Bown), *Inachis io* (Peacock), *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper), *Polygonia c-album* (Comma), *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Ringleet), *Udea lutealis*, together with *Panorpa communis* (Scorpion Fly). Fungi were showing rather well and included *Laccaria amethystina* (Amethyst Deceiver) and *Stereum hirsutum*. *Carex divulsa ssp. leersii* (Leers' Sedge) was found next to the old Toll House at Whorlton Bridge.

#### **Sunday, 31st August, Riccal Dale.**

The group met in the village of Pockley and walked down into Riccaldale which is noted for the spring show of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell).. *Stachys arvensis* (Field Woundwort) was found at the edge of a field of Chicory on the western edge of the dale. *Melica nutans* (Mountain Melick) was also noted.

#### **Wednesday, 10th September, Castleton and Comondale.**

Ten members enjoyed a fine day after much rain which had produced lots of fungi. There were some of insects around but nothing unusual.

#### **Saturday, 20th September, Yearsley Common.**

Thirteen members met on a beautiful sunny day. We took a circular route starting downhill through mixed woodland down to the Fish Pond. Our first find was an *Deilephila elpenor* (Elephant Hawkmoth) caterpillar. There were many

*Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood), butterflies. We found *Scrophularia auriculata* (Water Figwort), *Centaureum erythraea* (Centaur), *Hypericum tetrapterum* (Square Stemmed St Johns Wort), *Pimpinella major* (Greater Burnet Saxifrage). Later on we found Lesser Burdock (*Arctium minus*), Fragrant agrimony (*Agrimonia procera*) and a hybrid willowherb *Eplilobium montanum x ciliatum*. We had lunch on the fishpond dam where we saw some damsel and dragonflies including a brown hawker.

The main interest was in the fungi. I am no expert in the subject so the following list was compiled from my notes on the spot or help from the group leader. Apologies for any errors.

*Colybia peronata* (Wood Woolly Foot)  
*Coprinus lagapos*  
*Clavinopsis coniculata*  
*Amanita fulva* (Tawny Grisette)  
*Russula ochrileuca*  
*Hypholoma fusiculare*  
*Lactarius tormentosus* (Woolly Milkcap)  
*Laccaria amethystea* ((Amethyst Deceiver)  
*Hyponicum repandrum* Hedgehog fungus)  
*Amanita pantherina* (Panther Cap)  
*Fomes fomentarius* (Horses Hoof bracket)  
Birch bolete, a puff ball and two slime moulds.

The oddest was *Phacolus sweirtzii* identified for us by Gordon Simpson. It looked rather like a squashed rubber glove.

There were many more. The area under the beech trees on the south side of the pond was particularly good. Returning via the two upper ponds further up the valley we saw a *Gonepteryx rhamni* (Brimstone) butterfly. Birds were scarce. It is worth noting that Nightjars have been seen in the felled areas. A visit to the same area last year produced a substantially different list of fungi. It would be worth another visit.

### **Sunday, 5th October, Lazenby Bank.**

### **Saturday, 18th October, Grosmont to Goathland Rail Trail.**

Nine members assembled in Grosmont for the walk on what started as a typically dull autumn day.

As we set off along the rail trail there were a number of plants to be seen still in flower, including *Convolvulus arvensis* (Common Bindweed), *Trifolium pratense* (Red Clover) and *Symphytum officinalis* (Common Comfrey).

Soon we began to encounter several species of fungus that we expected to find at this time of year. Among these were *Xylaria hypoxylon* (Candle Snuff Fungus), *Clitocybe nebularis* (Clouded Agaric), *Stropharia aeruginosa* (Verdigris Toadstool), *Pholiota squarrosa* (Shaggy Pholiota) and *Armillaria mellea* (Honey Fungus).



The day warmed up a bit as we walked along and the sun made a welcome appearance. We came to a nice patch of *Melandrium rubrum* (Red Campion) and flying amongst it was a superb *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral) butterfly in pristine condition. At the same place, a *Picus viridis* (Green Woodpecker) was heard and several *Turdus iliacus* (Redwing) were seen.

As we continued on our way we found more fungi, including *Calocera viscosa* (Jelly Antler Fungus), *Coprinus comatus* (Shaggy Ink Cap) and, on an open grassy embankment, a fine and extensive mix of small yellow and orange/red Wax Caps growing in close proximity to each other.

As we crossed one of the foot bridges over the Murk Esk on our way into Goathland, we observed a *Ardea cinerea* (Grey Heron) carefully and stealthily picking its way across the water not very far from us. The heron was not spooked by us at all and provided us with some good views of its patient fishing technique, although it was a case of the one that got away as we did not see it catch anything.

We also saw a *Dendrocopos major* (Great Spotted Woodpecker) and a *Certhia familiaris* (Treetreepeeper) as we climbed up through the tree lined incline to Goathland.

Although we had not spotted many birds on the walk, as we reached the outskirts of Goathland village itself, just over the road at the top of the incline, there were many birds to be seen. These included *Carduelis carduelis* (Goldfinch), *Fringilla coelebs* (Chaffinch), *Carduelis chloris* (Greenfinch), *Passer domesticus* (House Sparrows), *Parus major* (Great Tit), *Turdus merula* (Blackbirds) and more *Turdus iliacus* (Redwing).

We made our way back to Grosmont along the high route on the other side of the railway. On the return leg on higher and more moor like terrain, we found *Amanita muscaria* (Fly Agaric), *Amanita fulva* (Tawny Grisette), *Laccaria amethystea* (Amethyst Deceiver) and more *Pholiota squarrosa* (Shaggy Pholiota) growing under ash trees at the top of a steep cutting.

After slightly straying off our route, which meant we descended to river level only to find the bridge marked on the map had long since been washed away and we had to retrace our steps back up to the top, we eventually made it back to Grosmont station. We arrived just before the station café closed, so we were able to enjoy tea and cakes, which helped to make an excellent day complete.

### **Saturday, 1st November, Helmsley to Harome and Sproxton.**

Nine members met at Helmsley on a bright late autumn day with a cool north easterly breeze. The day only being interrupted by a small shower when we stopped for lunch.

We saw several birds as we walked along including *Turdus iliacus* (Redwings), *Carduelis spinus* (Siskins), *Carduelis carduelis* (Goldfinch), a single *Ardea cinerea* (Grey Heron) in a field (which was just a taster for what

was yet to come) and lots of *Vanellus vanellus* (Lapwings) in a freshly ploughed field. We also saw several species of tits, including long tailed tits, blue tits and coal tits.

A few *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral) butterflies were still flying, although it seemed without the same enthusiasm they were showing only a short time ago.

As we neared the village of Harome, we encountered a large herd of domesticated *Cervus dama* (Fallow Deer), which was a lovely sight to see.

In the pond in the village itself we saw *Gallinula chloropus* (Moorhen) and, close by, there were also *Turdus pilarus* (Fieldfare) to be seen.

As some members scavenged for windfalls on the grass verge by the side of the road outside somebody's house, the lady of the house took pity on us and invited us into her garden to pick some better apples that were growing in profusion on her trees. She told us they would otherwise only go to waste. This was a very kind and generous gesture from a stranger and it goes to prove there's more than just looking at nature with the field club. You can taste it as well.

At the lunch stop, by a bend in the river, it was possible to see five species of willow at the same place, including *Salix purpurea* (Purple Willow).

Just before we stopped, we put up six *Gallinago gallinago* (Snipe) from the long grass around a pond. While taking lunch, we also noted a *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Cormorant) flying over.

Near Sproxton we saw *Motacilla cinerea* (Grey Wagtail) and *Emberiza citrinella* (Yellowhammer). We also found both *Rosa avensis* (Field Rose) and *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose) growing close together. There was also a male and female pair of *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Bullfinch) to be seen.

On the last leg of our return from a lengthy and tiring walk, we encountered many *Ardea cinerea* (Grey Heron) in the grass fields. There were approximately 30 in one field to our right and 6 in another field to our left. It is not very often that we get to see that many heron at one time.

We were all pleased to see Helmsley once more, as we arrived back there with aching legs and boots twice as heavy as when we set off.

### ***Lampyrus noctiluca* (Glowworms)**

During 2009 the Club will be visiting Thrislington in Co. Durham to seek Glowworms. This note is intended to provide some background information for this excursion.

The Glowworm is a beetle. The lifecycle of the beetle consists of egg, then larva, then adult. Only females glow in order to attract males. In the adult the glow emanates from the final two segments of the abdomen. The larva

has a much smaller light-emitting region on the last segment. The larva can take two or three years to mature to the adult stage. It has been suggested that this long period as a larva may explain why in some years there appear to be many Glowworms and in other years rather scarce. Adults normally glow in June and July, but have been seen into August. Larvae have been seen glowing in October and November.

According to data from the National Biodiversity Network Glowworms have been recorded since 1980 in the following locations in our area-

- Durham coast between Seaham and Peterlee.
- Between Ferryhill and Chilton
- Thrislington
- Rosedale Head
- Grosmont
- Sproxton and Riccaldale nr. Helmsley
- Forest areas in North Yorkshire
- Ellerburn

There are some interesting pre-1980 records namely-

- Helmsley Castle
- Farndale
- The B1264 between Yarm and Low Worsall
- Aislaby, on grass verge
- Brown Hill nr White Cross on the road between Lockwood beck and Castleton
- Lealholm
- Commondale
- Around the cemetery and Newbridge in Pickering
- West of Darlington as far as Piercebridge.
- Ayhope Beck, Hamsterley Forest
- Trimdon Grange
- Edmundbyers
- East Castle near the A693
- "The Sneep" .,Muggleswick
- Harwoodshield Fell near Baybridge
- A succession of records around Hexham and Corbridge
- Redmire
- Richmond, banks of Swale

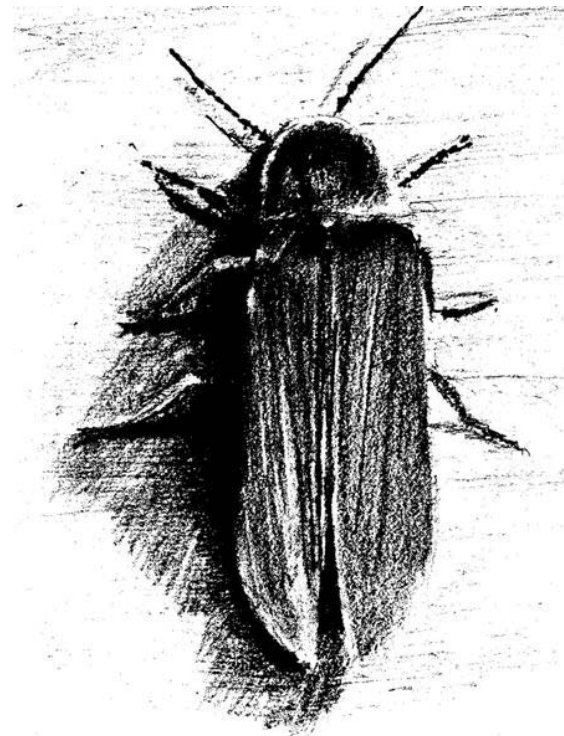
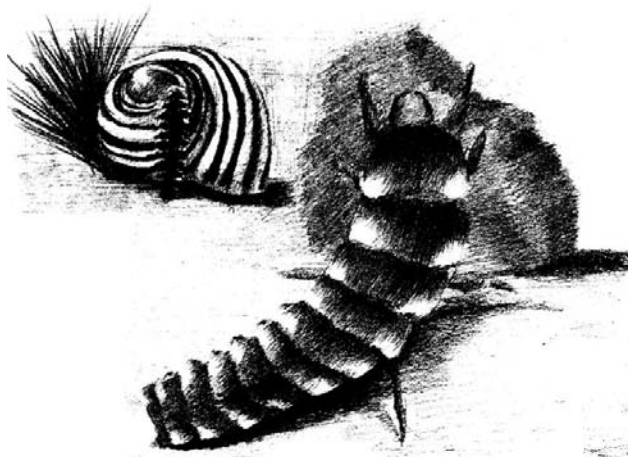
The following Report was from observations made during 1900 by M. Lawson Thompson as printed in the Proceedings for that year

*Lampyrus noctiluca*, L-This species, the Glow-worm, was found at Danby, Battersby and Great Ayton.

It is evident from the national records that the beetle can be found from the south coast of England to the most northerly margins of Scotland. The records are relatively sparse in Scotland but widely distributed across northern England. There is a tendency to think of Glowworms being strongly related to

the distribution of limestone landscapes, particularly in Co. Durham. Glowworms eat snails and limestone country is good for snails. However, Glowworms occur in a diversity of habitats not necessarily related to limestone.

It seems to be a bit of a mystery why Glowworms are not reported more often. Food and suitable habitat seem readily available. A midnight stroll on a warm June or July evening around the areas indicated above may prove rewarding. The national Glowworm Survey can be found at <http://www.galaxypix.com/glowworms/>



## Further records of notable aquatic Coleoptera from Cleveland

Martin Hammond ([m.hammond300@googlemail.com](mailto:m.hammond300@googlemail.com))

In the *Record of Proceedings* 9 (1) (Spring 2007) I summarised some recent records of notable water beetles from the former County of Cleveland. Ongoing survey work has produced a number of additional noteworthy records during 2007 and 2008, which are summarised below. A few records by other recorders have been extracted from the Balfour-Browne Club database and are denoted 'B-BC'. Assessment of GB status for each species follows Merritt (2006), as per the previous paper.

### Gyrinidae (whirligig beetles)

#### *Gyrinus caspius* Menetries

GB status: local A

A very local coastal species of mildly brackish, usually non-tidal ponds and drains. A spate of additional records include: ponds at High Clarence and Haverton Hill on 17/iv/2007; Norton Bottoms Pond, 24/iv/2007; Cowpen Marsh, 15/x/2007; and three water bodies of varying size on Warrenby Dunes (20/v & 16/x/2008). These records show that *G. caspius* has a significant stronghold around Teesmouth, the plentiful supply of slightly brackish permanent ponds with emergent stands of *Phragmites*, *Bolboschoenus* and *Typha* providing ideal habitat.

#### *Haliphus apicalis* Thomson

GB status: scarce

Additional records: small ponds near Warrenby, reputed to be medieval salt pits, 2♂, 16/x/2007; Cowpen Marsh, 15/x/2007 & 28/iv/2008.

### Paelobiidae (screech beetles)

#### *Hygrobia hermanni* (Fabricius), Screech Beetle

GB status: local B

In the previous note I observed that this distinctive southern water beetle was expanding northwards, had already been recorded from Darlington and was likely to appear in Cleveland in the near future. In fact it had been recorded by M.D. Eyre at Cowpen Marsh on 30/vi/2006 (B-BC). Subsequent records by the author have included an adult and numerous larvae in a pond at Low Stainton Community Woodland on 19/vi/2007; several adults in a grassy pool at Coatham Marsh NR on 14/viii/2007; and an adult at Cowpen Marsh on 15/x/2007. The Screech Beetle is easily found and recognised, both as an adult and a larva; it is also the only water beetle which tends to be heard in the net before it is seen – it makes a buzzing noise by rasping furrows on the underside of its wing cases across a ridge on its abdomen when disturbed, hence its English name. It may be widely established in Cleveland by now and is well worth looking out for.

### Dytiscidae (diving beetles)

*Laccophilus hyalinus* (Degeer)

GB status: local B

A diving beetle found in slow-flowing rivers, canals, gravel pits and lakes. This species is at the northern edge of its British range in Cleveland. Reported from 'Billingham' by Eyre et al (2005). Abundant at Charlton's Pond on 7/v/2008, apparently the same site. Also recorded from the River Tees at Hurworth-on-Tees on 27/ix/2007.

*Agabus biguttatus* (Olivier)

GB status: scarce

A scarce and infrequently recorded diving beetle, found in springs, small headwater streams and intermittently-flowing becks. *A. biguttatus* is often described as semi-subterranean, and the places in which it is found do suggest that it usually lives inside springs or perhaps in groundwater flowing beneath stream beds. A female was collected from the beck at Brewsdale NR on 21/vi/2007 (conf. R. Merritt). Balfour-Browne (1950) mentioned *A. biguttatus* being collected from Skelton Beck upstream of Saltburn by W. Lawson-Thompson in 1932, following a spate.

*Agabus conspersus* (Marsham)

GB status: scarce

Additional records of this brackish water specialist are: Cowpen Marsh pond, numerous on 15/x/2007; Coatham Marsh, one from a well-vegetated pool adjoining the Fleet on 14/viii/2007; and in a saline pool with electrical conductivity measured at 16,370 µS/cm on Greenabella Marsh on 7/v/2008.

*Ilybius quadriguttatus* (Lacordaire & Boisduval)

GB status: local B

Re-recorded from BBVCP (Ecology Park pond) on 6/v/2008 and found in good numbers in a limited area of mossy dune slack pools at Warrenby on 20/v/2008. At the latter site, electrical conductivity was measured as 2,320 uS/cm, indicating that *I. quadriguttatus* tolerates mildly brackish conditions. These records confirm that *I. quadriguttatus* is well-established around the Tees estuary, which marks the northern limit of its currently-known British range.

*Rhantus suturalis* (MacLeay)

GB status: local B

Additional records: ditch at North Gare dune slacks, 9/ix/2008; Coatham Marsh NR, 24/xii/2008. This species has evidently increased in northern England in recent years and is now very common around the Humber. It can exploit a wide range of fresh and mildly brackish habitats, and if present trends continue *R. suturalis* will increase in Cleveland during the next few years.

*Hydroglyphus geminus* (Fabricius)

GB status: local B

In the previous report it was noted that this small diving beetle had been recorded at two sites south of the Tees. On 17/iv/2007, it was found in a pond

at High Clarence and on 24/iv/2007 at Norton Bottoms pond. This southern species is clearly expanding into VC66.

#### Helophoridae

##### *Helophorus fulgidicollis* Motschulsky

GB status: scarce

This saltmarsh specialist was found in a saline pool on Greenabella Marsh on 7/v/2008, with *Agabus conspersus*, *Enochrus bicolor* and *Ochthebius marinus*.

##### *Helophorus nanus* Sturm

GB status: scarce

A very local species found in seasonally-flooded swamps and fens. In the lowland river valleys of Yorkshire, *H. nanus* is closely associated with floodplain *Glyceria maxima* swamp and a single specimen was collected from this habitat at BBVCP (Willow Crook) on 8/v/2008. This species has previously been recorded in Cleveland by M.D. Eyre at Portrack Marsh in 2004 (B-BC). Except for one record slightly further north in Cumbria, these sites mark the northern limit of its known range in Britain.

#### Hydrophilidae (scavenger water beetles)

##### *Enochrus bicolor* (Fabricius)

GB status: scarce

Another saltmarsh species, recorded from a saline pool on Greenabella Marsh on 7/v/2008. This species has been known for some years from the Greatham Creek/Seal Sands area.

##### *Enochrus halophilus* (Bedel)

GB status: scarce

One specimen was collected amongst several *E. bicolor* from the northern end of the Tidal Pool by Greatham Creek (i.e. west of the A178) on 16/x/2007. Conditions were markedly saline with electrical conductivity exceeding 20,000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  whilst saltwater invertebrates in the pool included the translucent prawn *Palaeomonetes varians* and a *Corophium* sp. amphipod. *E. halophilus* has been recorded once previously in Cleveland, from the South Gare area in 1989 (B-BC).

As its name suggests, this species is associated with brackish waters, with occasional inland records coming from ponds of high ionic content (e.g. Merritt, 2006). Teesmouth apparently represents the northern limit of its British range. Although there have been an increasing number of British records of *E. halophilus*, these are often of single specimens and breeding populations are probably very localised.

#### **Locations referred to (Vice-county in brackets):**

Billingham Beck Valley Country Park (BBVCP), Ecology Park pond: NZ 468 232 (66); Billingham Beck Valley Country Park (BBVCP), Willow Crook: NZ 45-21- (66); Brewsdale: NZ 468 107 (62); Charlton's Pond, Billingham: NZ 468 232 (66); Coatham Marsh NR: NZ 58- 24- (62); Cowpen Marsh pond: NZ 507 249 (66); Greenabella Marsh (saline pool): NZ 511 255 (66); Haverton Hill: NZ

491 222 (66); High Clarence: NZ 495 222 (66); North Gare dune slacks: NZ (66); Norton Bottoms pond: NZ 460 209 (66); Stainton Low Wood: NZ 473 145 (62); Tidal Pool: NZ 507 523 (66); Warrenby (salt-pit ponds): NZ 586 248 (62); Warrenby Dunes: NZ 57- 25-/NZ 56- 26- (62).

## References

Balfour-Browne, F. (1950). *British water beetles*. Volume II. The Ray Society: London.

Eyre, M.D., Woodward, J.C. & Luff, M.L. (2005). Expanding northern ranges of aquatic invertebrate species: a possible effect of climate change? *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*, **18**: 219-223.

Merritt, R. (2006). *Atlas of the water beetles (Coleoptera) and water bugs (Hemiptera) of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire, 1993-2005*. Sorby Record Special Series, No. 14. Sorby Natural History Society: Sheffield.



## THE BREEDING BIRDS OF CLEVELAND.

Vic. Fairbrother.

### Some initial reflections on the survey.

In November 2008 the first ever comprehensive study of the breeding birds of Cleveland was published by the Teesmouth Bird Club. This landmark achievement was the culmination of intensive surveys by over fifty fieldworkers throughout eight breeding seasons 1999-2006. The breeding and habitat requirements are described for each species and the survey results are placed in the context of national population trends and distribution derived from British Trust for Ornithology atlases and surveys. The book provides a vast amount of new information alongside historical data from a variety of sources not previously brought together. Teesmouth Bird Club publications and Annual Reports provided the recent historical record but apart from *A History of the Birds of Durham* (Temperley 1951) and *The Birds of Yorkshire* (Nelson 1907) earlier records are rather sparse. The Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club *Record of Proceedings* dating back to 1895 therefore provided an excellent additional source of interesting early records.

It is only possible to highlight some initial reflections here; leaving more detailed analysis for a later date. The survey located 127 breeding species in the period 1999-2006. House Sparrow and Blackbird were by far the most abundant species located during the survey followed by Starling and Kittiwake and then Wren, Wood Pigeon, Dunnock, Blue Tit, Robin and Chaffinch. The Blackbird was the most widely distributed species appearing in 91% of tetrads, closely followed by Wren, Dunnock and Wood Pigeon. Other widespread species appearing in more than 75% tetrads were: Blue Tit, Linnet, Robin, Chaffinch, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Whitethroat, Great Tit, Willow Warbler, Skylark, Song Thrush, Greenfinch, Starling and House Sparrow.

Greylag and Canada Geese clearly demonstrate the potential impact of new colonizers. Two Canada Geese on the Reclamation pond in May 1957 were the first of the century. There followed a slow but steady increase and a more recent acceleration of numbers to the 83 pairs noted in this survey. Greylag Geese formerly widespread were extinct in England by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Releases in Wynyard Park in the 1960s produced the only breeding pairs for the next two decades but as these died out colonization of the North Tees Marshes began. In addition the colonization of Scaling Dam and Lockwood Beck, probably from Yorkshire populations has led to flourishing moorland populations in the south. Even more spectacular is the spread of the Collared Dove which first bred in Britain in 1955, in Cleveland as recently as 1960, and had reached an astonishing 2,733 pairs by the time of this survey. On this and other evidence the arrival of the Ring-necked Parakeet gives some cause for concern.

It was no surprise that the Mallard was the most abundant and widespread duck in Cleveland, but it was more numerous than expected as were the Tufted Duck and Shelduck. With 28 pairs located in this survey the Gadwall is

the success story among ducks as breeding was not recorded until 1994. Another success is the Pochard, not recorded as a breeding species until 1986 but the North Tees Marshes now host 32 breeding pairs. This is a significant 7% of the national total and both species are rare breeding birds in the UK. Five pairs of Garganey are also significant for this nationally rare breeding bird. Always a scarce breeder the Shoveler should retain a secure base at Saltholme but the single pair of Teal in Cleveland is in stark contrast to the tens of thousands which winter locally.

The national trend for many woodland species is one of severe decline and as woodland habitat is scarce in Cleveland with less than 7% tree cover compared with 12% nationally and 44% in Europe, prospects for some of our most delightful woodland birds give cause for concern. Blackcap and Chiffchaff which winter north of the Sahara continue to do well nationally and locally with over 1000 pairs of each located during the survey. In contrast long distance migrants are experiencing a long-term decline so Cleveland counts of Wood Warbler (4 pairs), Redstart (9 pairs) and Tree Pipit (26 pairs) are not surprising. Spotted Flycatchers, a red list species of conservation concern are down to 57 pairs in Cleveland. Scarce and more localised resident species, which have suffered substantial national declines include Hawfinch down to only five pairs in Cleveland and Lesser spotted Woodpecker down to two pairs.

Four of the raptors located in the survey are rare breeding birds in the UK so it was pleasing to record 3 pairs each of Goshawk and Merlin and 4 pairs of Peregrine Falcon. The single Hen Harrier record is notable given the widespread persecution of this species throughout Britain. Sparrowhawk and Kestrel numbers, finely balanced with 130 and 131 pairs respectively, indicate healthy, widespread populations in Cleveland although some indications of national decline suggest a note of caution here. On a positive note the continuing spread of Buzzards eastwards and the success of Red Kite release programmes to the north and south may well herald the arrival of two more breeding raptors.

Barn Owls and Long-eared Owls have only a tenuous foothold in Cleveland with the survey locating only 8 or 9 pairs of each. Although 55 pairs of Little Owls was more than expected they have disappeared from many former sites in the east and are now mainly concentrated in the far west of the area. As expected, Tawny Owls were the most abundant and the most widespread of the Owls. Owl populations are subject to 3-5 year cycles of abundance linked to the numbers of small rodents on which they feed. Furthermore suitable feeding habitat and natural nest sites are under growing pressure so increased provision of nest boxes in suitable habitat would be beneficial.

The numbers of many farmland species fell by more than a half during the last fifty years, a period of major change in agriculture. The data is not available to quantify the local decline of species like Grey Partridge, Skylark, Linnet and Yellowhammer but the decline of the Turtle Dove, which has not bred in Cleveland since 1996 is sadly only too apparent. This survey found that the Corn Bunting had declined to only 23 pairs, a process which has continued to

a point where recovery will be extremely difficult. There was hope of reversing the downward trend in farmland birds with the advent of new agri-environment schemes but predictions of global food shortages suggest that a return to more intensive food production may intervene.

The impact of man is not always negative and the local warden scheme has done much to sustain the local Little Tern colony in its epic struggle against predation, tidal inundation, uncertain fish supplies and human disturbance. Even larger numbers of Common Terns have prospered thanks to the provision of rafts and creation of islands for the breeding colonies. In addition the development of the new RSPB Saltholme Reserve will provide a vital stronghold for vulnerable wetland and other species.

One of the more difficult species to survey provided a pleasant surprise when 37 pairs of Water Rail, more than 8% of the GB total, were located by dedicated fieldworkers. Although facing a national decline, encouraging numbers of Lapwing were found around the North Tees marshes and in the southeast uplands where Curlew also have a small local stronghold. Despite Teesmouth hosting tens of thousands of waders in winter, Redshank, Golden Plover, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover and Little Ringed Plover all remain uncommon local breeders. However, it is encouraging that this detailed and systematic survey demonstrated that some of our other uncommon and fairly common species were more numerous than previously estimated. These included Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Grasshopper Warbler, Coal Tit, Long tailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Goldcrest, Swift, Sand Martin, Reed Bunting, Lapwing, Woodcock and Snipe.

Bird populations are rarely static. Suitable habitats for breeding, feeding and winter survival are subject to continuous natural evolution, the influence of farm and woodland management, the impact of industry, urbanization and conservation measures. Untimely or extremes of weather periodically affect breeding success or survival and now climate change adds another indeterminate dimension to population dynamics. This study is therefore timely in providing an intriguing snapshot of Cleveland's breeding birds at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It will repay careful analysis and provide a benchmark against which the changing fortunes of our local breeding birds can be monitored.

**Joynt, G., Parker, E.C. & Fairbrother, J.V. 2008. The Breeding Birds of Cleveland. Teesmouth Bird Club.**

## **Platyarthus\_hoffmanseggi (White Wood Louse) at Nose's Point**

We found the White Wood Louse on Sunday, 8th June at Blast Beach and Hawthorn Hive. It was observed under stones in association with ants' nests.

"this is only the second known locality in Co Durham for *Platyarthus hoffmanseggi*.....The Durham City site is sheltered and south-facing with very thin soil over sandstone." (Personal comm..-Alan Rose)

It has been reported before in the Vasculum-

Vasculum, Vol. vii. No 2. May 1921, page 61.

"*Platyarthus hoffmannseggii*, Dr Harrison records this species from Blackhall Rocks and Birtley with *Formica fusca* and *Lasius flavus*. Gilsland with *Lasius niger*, Horden the Sneap and Penshaw with *Myrmica*. Wooler and near Bamburgh with *Myrmica*. "

Vasculum V ol I No. 4 December 1915

"*Platyarthus hoffmanseggii*

One of the guests of ants and to be found freely with both *Formica fusca* and *Lasius flavus* if these nests are persistently worked in spite of failures. Has been taken at Redcar, Black Hall Rocks and Birtley-J.W.H.H."

Clearly, there is the possibility that this species could turn up in other localities along the coast. Some images can be found in the Vasculum Vol. 93 at [www.the-vasculum.com](http://www.the-vasculum.com)

### **A Digital Archive of Proceedings**

All issues of the Cleveland Naturalists Record of Proceedings have now been scanned and converted to searchable text using optical character recognition software and diligent correction and proof reading by Malcolm Birtle, Jo Scott and Eric Gendle. Options for making this archive as available as possible are being explored. Currently, copies can be sent to members on CD by sending a request to [m.birtle@tees.ac.uk](mailto:m.birtle@tees.ac.uk) or [m.birtle@hotmail.com](mailto:m.birtle@hotmail.com)

The Natural History Museum has contacted the Club asking permission to scan and make available the Proceedings through The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) project. BHL is an alliance between ten of the world's leading natural history libraries and provides web-based access to the libraries collections of biodiversity literature to a global audience. BHL is a non-profit making, open access project; you can find more information at <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

So, in the fullness of time the archive may be available through the web. Some issues can be found at [www-the-vasculum.com](http://www-the-vasculum.com).

If anyone would like to take a copy on CD and make them available on other web sites-feel free.

### **Field Meetings 2009**

Full details of the walks and their starting-points are given below. If you require further details about a walk or in the event of inclement weather and possible cancellation please contact the leader of the walk. Please carry suitable refreshment with you! This will be necessary for the walks that start on a morning and it may well be appropriate to take tea on an afternoon walk.

#### **Mobile Phone**

The walk leader on the day carries the Club's mobile phone (☎ **07826 787650**) that members may ring if necessary (to find the group if late arriving, for example).

#### **Presidents message to members and potential members.**

I hope that you will find outings to your taste from this varied programme. Any suggestions for future outings are always welcomed by the committee. It is hoped that members will share transport, where possible, to ease any parking-problems and be prepared to offer lifts to members without cars.

I should like to welcome any prospective members to join some of the outings. I am sure that you will find our members friendly and helpful. I have found the field-trips a splendid way of learning more about the natural history of the areas we visit.

**by the President**

**Saturday, 28th March, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616**  
GR NZ633194. **Errington Woods.** Meet in Upleatham village. An easy walk of about 4 miles.

**Wednesday, 8th April, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235**  
GR SD870895. **Hawes and Snaizeholme.** Meet in Gayle. We shall walk to the red squirrel viewing area in Widdale. The overall walk will be 9 miles, but some cars could be left at the viewing point. If you would like to use this facility, please contact the leader in advance. There will be 400ft of climbing and the walk may be boggy.

**Saturday, 18th April, 10:30 am, leader Paul Forster ☎ 01287 201794**  
GR SE613837. **Helmsley to Rievaulx.** Meet by the market square cross in Helmsley. An easy walk of about 6 miles.

**Sunday, 26th April, 10:30 am, leader Martin Allen ☎ 01642 576295**  
GR NZ689139. **Moorsholm.** Meet in Moorsholm village. A walk of about 5 miles. Please note this walk will take us into areas different from those in recent CNFC meetings.

**Wednesday, 6th May, 6:30 pm, leader Alan Bunn ☎ 01642 724955**  
GR NZ653157. **Margrove.** The meeting place is in the old shale tip car park on the west side of the road opposite the entrance to the caravan park at Margrove.

**Wednesday, 13th May, 10:30 am, leaders Joan Bradbury and Norma Pagdin ☎ 01429 268416**  
GR NY906281. **Upper Teesdale.** Meet in the lay-by on the side of the road at Bowlees. The walk is about 6 miles and could be extended. There will be a short steep climb.

**Saturday, 16th May, 10:30 am, leader John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815**  
GR SE706698. **Castle Howard.** This is the YNU VC 62 meeting. Meet in the car park at the arboretum. Please note an entry fee of £5 will be payable.

**Wednesday, 20th May, 10:30 am, leader Vic Fairbrother ☎ 01287 633744**  
GR SD951982. **Gunnarside, Swaledale.** Meet at Little Bridge. A 5 mile walk featuring limestone terrace, moorland, hay meadows and exploration of Oxnop Gill.

**Sunday, 31st May, 10:30 am, leader Vincent Jones ☎ 01642 722814**  
GR NZ668216. **Saltburn to Skinningrove.** Meet in the boating lake car park at Saltburn. We shall walk the cliff footpath towards Skinningrove (Cleveland Way) and return by other footpaths. There will be a little climbing. The longest walk available will be about 7 miles, but there are opportunities to shorten.

**Sunday, 7th June, 10:30 am, leader Neil Baker ☎ 01325 361547**  
GR SD972888. **Thornton Rust, Wensleydale.** Meet in the small signed free car park. Overflow parking is available at the roadside, if required. An only moderately difficult walk of about 7 miles. We will visit both of the compact Kennel Field and Seata Quarry YWT nature reserves during the course of the walk.

**Wednesday, 10th June, 6:30 pm, leader Alan Bunn ☎ 01642 724955**  
GR NZ556276. **South Gare.** Meet at the Coastguard Station. An easy walk.

**Friday, 19th June, 7:30 pm, leader Jo Scott ☎ 01642 897843**  
GR NZ309327. **Thrislington NR.** We have permission to park in Lefarge Quarry visitors car park. As well as our usual walk with a slightly later start than normal, we will also be looking for moths and glow worms, so the meeting will last until after dark for those who wish to stay.

**Wednesday, 24th June, 10:30 am, leader Bill Thompson ☎ 01751 431861**  
GR SE667756. **Stonegrave and Cawton.** Meet at the entrance to Hovingham Hall.  
An easy walk of about 5 miles. We have permission to explore private land on the Hovingham estate and shall visit Cawkleys Bank near Stonegrave.

**Wednesday, 8th July, 10:30 am, leaders Peter and Ruth Waterton ☎ 01642 724270**

GR SE589008. **Potteric Carr YWT Reserve.** Meet in the car park at Potteric Carr.

Take A1 South to M18 East, then off at junction 3 (North). The reserve is signposted from here. There will be a small entrance fee.

**Wednesday, 15th July, 6:30 pm, leader Ian Lawrence ☎ 01642 281380**

GR NZ457145. **Stainsby Beck valley.** From the roundabout on the A1045 (near the GR) turn east and park in the lay-by on the north side of the road after the first crossroads. Ian will then lead us into the parking place on Teesside Industrial Estate for the walk. If wet, please contact the leader before travelling as this walk is unsuitable in poor conditions.

**Wednesday, 22nd July, 10:30 am, leader Eric Gendle ☎ 01642 281235**

GR NZ364353. **Coxhoe and Trimdon.** Meet at the entrance to the Raisby Way railway walk. Gentle walks to explore three DWT limestone grassland sites.

**Wednesday, 29th July, 6:30 pm, leader Andrew Ferguson ☎ 01642 311831**

GR NZ447154. **Bassleton Woods and the Holmes.** Meet at the end of Bassleton Lane in Thornaby, where the footpath that leads down to Bassleton Woods starts. An easy walk.

**Sunday, 2nd August, 11:00 am, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 649938**

GR NZ437479. **Seaham.** Meet at Blast Beach car park, Seaham (Noses Point). We shall visit Blast Beach, Foxholes and Beacon Hill. It is a different time of year from last year's walk and we shall visit different sites.

**Sunday, 16th August, 10:30 am, leader Alick Hunter ☎ 01751 477708**

GR SE852938. **Saltergate.** Meet in the car park on the east side of the A169. An easy walk of about 4 miles. There will be a little climbing.

**Sunday, 23rd August, 10:30 am, leader Vic Fairbrother ☎ 01287 633744**

GR TA010947. **Cloughton.** Meet in Cloughton. A 4½ mile walk along a coastal path and returning along an old railway.

**Wednesday, 2nd September, 10:30 am, leader Colin Chatto ☎ 01642 599616**

GR NZ477020. **Scugdale.** Meet by the church in Swainby. A walk of about 6 miles with some climbing. It is possible to shorten the walk.

**Sunday, 20th September, 10:30 am, leader Tom Kirby ☎ 01642 722814 (Vincent Jones)**

GR NZ847131. **Mulgrave Woods.** Meet in the car park in Lythe. This is a fungus foray. We may, with permission, drive into the Mulgrave Estate.

**Saturday, 3rd October, 10:30 am, leader Judy Dinwiddie ☎ 01845 537340**

GR SE515812. **White Horse**. Meet in the White Horse car park. A walk of about 5 miles which will involve some climbing and may be muddy.

**Saturday, 17th October, 11:00 am, leader Malcolm Birtle ☎ 01642 649938**  
GR NZ251415. **Durham City**. Meet at the Broompark picnic area, where there is free car parking. The focus will be a fungus foray. An easy riverside walk in open grassland and woodland.

**Saturday, 31st October, 10:30 am, leader Andy Astbury ☎ 01642 823114**  
GR NZ572035. **Clay Bank**. Meet in the Clay Bank car park. A circular walk of about 8 miles with some steep ascents and descents. There are several opportunities to shorten the walk. We will walk out west along the high level and return by the low level.

### **MEETINGS OF THE YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION**

Details are available from John Blackburn ☎ 01642 583815.

### **DATES FOR WINTER MEETINGS 2009-2010**

Sep 28. Oct 19. Nov 16, 30. Dec 21. Jan 18. Feb 15, 22. Mar 22, 29.

### **Websites**

Members with access to the world wide web will find the following sites of interest. These sites contain excellent links to many other sites with a natural history theme.

<http://www.clevelandnats.org.uk>

<http://www.davebarlow.co.uk>

<http://www.the-vasculum.com>.

<http://www.communicate.co.uk/ne/dtnfc>

<http://www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk/>

<http://www.botanicalkeys.co.uk/northumbria/index.asp>

<http://www.durhamwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

<http://www.nwt.org.uk/>

<http://www.teemouthbc.com/>

<http://www.durhambirdclub.org/>

<http://www.vc66.co.uk/mothweb/main.htm>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/northeastmoths>

<http://www.northumberland-national-park.org.uk/VisitorGuide/default.htm>

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/durhamcc/usp.nsf/pws/Ncs+-+Nature+Conservation+Sites>

<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/index.cfm>

<http://www.aviabird.net/birding/index.htm>

<http://www.ynu.org.uk>

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/>

<http://www.clevelandnats.org.uk>

<http://www.durhambiodiversity.org.uk/index.html>