

VOICE OF THE MOORS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS ASSOCIATION (NYMA)

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WINTER 2017

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THE ARCHANGELS (*Lamiaceae*)



TWO OF OUR common, though often ignored native plants, will continue to flower well into the winter, or even throughout the season if it is a particularly mild one. They are also some of the first to flower in spring. These are the white and red dead nettles which, together with the henbit dead nettle and the yellow archangel, were once all called the archangels, red, purple, white and yellow from their time of most prolific flowering being at the old archangel Michael's day.

They belong to the *Lamiaceae* family and at one time all were in the genus *Lamium* meaning neck or throat referring to the long, lipped corolla tube of their flowers. The white is *L. album*, and the red *L. purpureum*, the henbit *L. amplexicaule*, while the yellow archangel is now classified as *Lamium galabdolon*. The henbit dead nettle and the yellow archangel are not common in our area being plants of more calcareous soils. The former is a red-flowered occasional annual of disturbed land while the latter is a yellow-flowered perennial found in a few shady ancient woodlands, but this should not be confused with the increasingly common and invasive subspecies *argentatum*, a garden escapee with similar yellow flowers but with silvery markings on its leaves and which is sometimes called the silver archangel.

So here I am concentrating on the red and the white species which you should still be able to find in flower. They are usually called by their common name of dead nettles but also as dumb, deaf or blind nettles rather than their older name of archangels due to their resemblance in vegetative growth, appearance and habitat preferences to the stinging nettle. But they have no stinging hairs to protect themselves and often seem to make up for this, especially the white, by growing amongst stinging nettles and so gaining some protection from browsing animals and insects. However, they are completely unrelated to the stinging nettle and when in flower are obviously different and can be distinguished at other times by their hollow, square stems rather than the round solid ones of the stinging nettle.

The white dead nettle is abundant in hedgerows, banks, verges and fertile soils round buildings, but not on the higher, exposed ground. It is a perennial with a creeping rhizome forming large patches, its stem being rigid, square, softly hairy and slightly aromatic with opposite, ovate, toothed leaves. The white flowers are in dense whorls and have a long corolla tube with five petals, the upper being the largest and is curved to a hood with the black and gold stamens lying within it. This gives it another of its old names of 'Adam and Eve', as if held upside down the flower appears to resemble two sleeping people in a silk bed! In reality it means that as the bees reach down for the nectar at the base of the corolla tube their backs are dusted with pollen to take on to pollinate the next flower. Bees love the flowers, also called the bee nettle or honey flower, and

children have been known to suck the sweetness from the corolla tips too. The whorled white flowers last well in water and, if the leaves are carefully removed, make it and the silver cultivated variety unusual flowers for arrangements.

The tender young leaves or whole tops can be eaten raw in salads although they are rather strong and aromatic but they can also be cooked as spring greens having been used over much of northern Europe as a pot herb in the past.

But more importantly it has been used since at least medieval times as an important medicinal plant. Although a tisane of just the flowers is reputed to be an antioxidant, it is usually the whole flowering tip that is used. It is a herb for female complaints, helping with many gynaecological problems. It is a uterine tonic and due to its ability to control the flow of liquids from the body can regulate menstrual flow and other discharges when used as a tisane or douche. This same property means it can regulate bowel movements and loosen catarrh and ease runny noses. Externally, poultices of the leaves can 'draw' splinters and pus from wounds. It can ease burns and childhood teething pains, and soothe varicose veins and haemorrhoids.

The red dead nettle, *L. purpureum*, by contrast is an annual, common and patch-forming on disturbed ground or short grassland, also being in flower for most of the year. It is also called the red bee flower and, although visited by bees, it can self-pollinate especially in cold weather and so it is able to produce large colonies of plants. It is softly hairy and branching, often tinged red at its tips, varying according to habitat, being darker in open sunny conditions. The leaves are opposite, round ovate, toothed and stalked with the flowers in close terminal whorls of red to pink flowers with the characteristic long corolla and hooded upper lip.

The tips of the young leaves and flowers can be eaten raw in salads having an earthy, almost beetroot flavour and medicinally it has been used sometimes instead of the white, possibly being introduced as a Roman medicinal herb.

Many other members of this family of course are used in cooking and medicine: the mints, thymes, marjoram, lemon balm, sage and rosemary while of the native hedgerow plants of note are hedge woundwort with its anaesthetic and antiseptic properties, ground ivy, an old tonic tea and bitter for beer making, selfheal to soothe and heal wounds and combat viruses. Most puzzling of all is betony, which was lauded from ancient times as a complete panacea for a multitude of problems and diseases but with so far no proven scientific properties at all!

None of these will be in flower now, but if we have another mild winter our red and white archangels may continue to do so – time will tell!

Anne Press



NYMA

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Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
N° 1169240

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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George Winn-Darley
Elaine Wisdom

Association Treasurer

Brian Pearce
140 Newton Road
Great Ayton
Middlesbrough TS9 6DL
brian.pearce11@btinternet.com

Association Secretary

Janet Cochrane
Mobile: 07570 112010
secretary@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk

Membership Secretary

Cal Moore
Castleton
membership@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk
01287 669648

Walks Coordinator

Heather Mather
Ainthorpe
Tel. 01287 669104

Voice of the Moors Editorial Team

Sharon Artley, Janet Dodds, Albert Elliot
Please email articles/letters/photos to:
elliott142@btinternet.com or via mail to
VOICE, Piper House, 54 Church Street,
Castleton, Whitby YO21 2EL
Tel. 01287 660137

Design & Production

Basement Press
The Old Parsonage, Glaisdale,
Whitby, North Yorks YO21 2PL
Tel. 01947 897945
www.basementpress.com



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A REMINDER – MEMBERSHIP INCREASES FROM JANUARY, 2018.

All members were informed in the Autumn issue of 'The Voice of the Moors' of our subscription increases from January 2018. This is to remind members of those increases.

New membership fees as from January, 2018

Annual membership: Individual £18. Joint £25 (living at same address)

10 Year membership: Individual £120. Joint £150 (living at same address)

Life membership: Individual £300. Joint £400 (living at same address)

Business or Association membership:

Small businesses - (up to 10 employees): £30

Large businesses - (10 employees and over): £100

Your renewal date is indicated on the address label on the envelope of your 'Voice of the Moors' magazine. The price increases will not affect current 'Life Members'. Members who normally pay by Standing Order will be contacted individually prior to their normal standing order date.

For any membership queries or to join our list for receiving e-newsletters, please contact

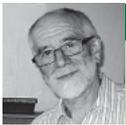
Membership Secretary: Carolyn Moore on 01287 669648 or

e-mail: Membership@north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk

Cover: Young Ralph Cross in snow (photo Ian Cartstairs)
Back cover: Illustration for Christmas Card by Sally Pattison (see page 9)

www.north-yorkshire-moors.org.uk





WE BEGAN the year with a Special General Meeting which was held ahead of the Council meeting on the 14th of January. We voted to dissolve our old charitable status and transfer our funds to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) effectively completing a seamless changeover.

NYMA COUNCIL

We have held four Council meetings this year all of them at the Kings Head in Kirkbymoorside. In addition to this there have been numerous other meetings. I have attended meetings with CNP Council, CPRE Yorkshire Coast Branch, Cornfield Flowers group and the National Parks Societies Annual Conference at Brockenhurst in the New Forest NP. Janet has attended the Ryedale Market Towns Project and the November CNP meeting. A notable change this year was the retirement of Gerald King after 14 years as membership secretary. As a modest token of our thanks and appreciation for all his work over this long period Gerald was presented at our AGM in June with a Garden Centre Voucher. We were pleased and relieved that Cal Moore could take over this vital job of keeping our membership records in order immediately after Gerald retired. Sharon Artley and Janet Dodds have joined us as assistant editors for Voice and an induction period supervised by Albert is in progress. They bring additional expertise to the production of the magazine which is so important being the main point of communication we have with our membership. Once again, we extend our thanks to Barbara and Brian who continue to make sure that "Voice of the Moors" is posted out to members promptly throughout the year.

AWARDS

2017 has been a year of awards starting with the Heritage Lottery Fund award of £9,800 for the production and publication of the History Tree Book. On March 23rd we were awarded £1,500 for conservation work, the award was sponsored by the Dalesman Magazine as part of the Yorkshire Awards Scheme. In the same month we were granted a donation of £1,500 from the Esmee Fairburn Trust "Fighting Fund" to support our monitoring of the impact of the Sirius mine development. Finally in November we had a donation of just over £2,000 from the Kirkbymoorside Coop Local Funding Scheme which will be used to help to support the Moorsbus next year.

PROJECTS AND LINKS

The History Tree project has moved into a new phase this year with the start of the production of a book about the History Tree which should be completed and published in 2018.

Adrian Leaman has been engaged in a time consuming undertaking converting Nan Sykes' book "Wildflowers of Northeast Yorkshire" into a web based format making it available in an electronic form.

The Park Wood biodiversity project is slowly progressing with additional tree planting carried out in the autumn.

We continue to be involved with the Cornfield Flowers Project which has entered a new phase continuing the conservation work through a Defra scheme. This is the Facilitation Fund, which brings together groups of farmers who are involved with the propagation of these rare flowers on arable land. There are also opportunities being pursued to develop this scheme for health benefits.

2018 has been another successful year for the Moorsbus introducing extended services and new interconnecting routes. In a survey carried out this year, 60% of bus passengers were from households without a car and 65% of passengers said that the purpose of travelling on the Moorsbus was to walk in the area.

We have been involved with the fight against the abuse of green lanes by off-road activities and have supported efforts to get the placing of a permanent transport regulation order (TRO) against the use of 4x4 vehicles and motor cycles at Kirby Bank. North Yorkshire County Council has confirmed that a permanent TRO is now in place. We continue to keep a close watch on damage to these rights of way through the newly formed North York Moors Green Lanes Alliance.

We have contributed support for the Ryedale Market Towns Project and Janet will sit on the steering group of this project on behalf of NYMA.

WEBSITE

Our website is an active site which now has a Facebook link. You can keep in touch with everything that is going on, thanks to Janet who keeps the website up to date and emails a news update to members in between the quarterly issues of "Voice".

PLANNING MATTERS

The Sirius Minerals mine development has continued to occupy a considerable amount of time following the submission of a new planning application in July. This is a section 73 application which addresses minor material changes to the permission which was granted in the disastrous decision of June 2015. The application is in our view far from being one of minor changes and one which further damages the National Park. We have submitted an objection along with the Campaign for National Parks asking for a refusal or a deferment based on the fact that other changes which the company have publicly announced and which deviate from the original application should also be considered. The application is due to come before the planning meeting of December 14th.

The South Moor Farm airfield planning application has been appealed again and a hearing is now scheduled for the end of January 2018.

A planning application to place a painted bronze sculpture of a seated man on Brown Hill above Westerdale was given approval by the National Park for a period of five years. The Seated Man 'sightseers' cars', anything up to forty at a time, park on the roadside verge along Castleton Rigg and are now a more prominent feature of the landscape than the sculpture.

LOOKING AHEAD

Who can say what 2018 may bring with so many uncertainties lying ahead of us on both a national scale and a local scale. Maybe the government's long awaited 25 year environment plan will emerge after five years of consideration and three reports by the curiously named Natural Capital Committee. Protected landscapes look vulnerable if all that is to be considered is the economic value of the environment and what it might yield in terms of monetary value. What of the rural economy and the livelihood of farmers post-brexite and what sort of deals will emerge for small farms to help them survive? Will the government commit themselves to fully equal the EU financial support given to farmers at present? What changes to the 2015 permission will Sirius Minerals come

up with next as they scrabble to cut costs? Will they be able to raise another \$1.3 billion for their phase two funding, without which they are finished. What Major Development planning challenges will face the National Park in the coming year, and how will the fracking in North Yorkshire develop?

For the moment we can put these uncertainties on hold and enjoy the festive season.

Good health, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our NYMA members.

*Tom Chadwick
Chairman*



PRESIDENT'S PIECE

FAVOURITE PLACES

WHENEVER I need a break from 'the demands of the world', to find quiet and to revitalise the soul, I head for one of my favourite places on earth.

If I am honest, in truth, I seem to have a lot of favourite places, for different times, moods and occasions: Rievaulx and Byland at night; Sutton Bank as the sun goes down; the very top of the moors when the wind is howling wildly across the clean lines of ridges, each fading greyer to the horizon ... and these are just a few for starters

But at any time of day or year, I never tire of leaving the Whitby Road, twisting down through the hollow past old Levisham Mill, up the steep gradient leading to the village and beyond, then, when the earth seems to open up before me, diving sharply down into Newtondale, to enter the time-warp world of Levisham Station, the first stop north from Pickering on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

When the trains are running, I usually aim for mid-afternoon, at which time the northbound and southbound trains cross over in the station. But in mid-winter it's different, since the trains aren't operating a regular service. Instead, on special days, Santa makes the return trip from Pickering and then there's lots of puffing, hissing clanking and enthusiastic managing of the 'turn-round' at Levisham. As the carriages are uncoupled, small excited and smiling faces press against the steamed-up windows, seeking a side-ways glimpse of the action as it unfolds.

This is a unique place where life in the beautifully restored Edwardian station seems to run slowly. Time is yours to pause and contemplate and to enjoy the moment, an experience helped immensely by the fact that there is no road running along Newtondale. And with steep valley sides blocking out distant sounds, it is mercifully free from the constant drone of the internal combustion engine. That is except for the sound of the occasional vehicle descending down into this heaven, of which I know I am guilty for arriving at this lovely and remote place by car.

Levisham Station feels like another world at any time, but takes on an extra special air just before Christmas, as the light dims down, the days are short and the air usually chill. After Christmas is not the same and there is no other time of year when this atmosphere wraps around you so completely.

One Christmas, with my wife Jan, I took two young Australian visitors to the station on a Santa Day to enjoy the experience of steam in this rural station of long ago. Since everyone joined the train at Pickering and stayed on it to return, we were the only people on the empty platform. From here, looking far down Newtondale towards Pickering, the first wisps of smoke heralded the keenly awaited approach of the Santa Special. As the locomotive thumped its way up the track tender-first and neared the station, I could see it was the wonderful West Country Class locomotive *Hartland*.

The nice thing about being the only people on the platform, especially when there is so much to be done to prepare the train for its return, is that you can readily talk to the driver and fireman.

It reminded me of my enthusiasm for steam trains when at school in Surrey, where coincidentally I fondly remember this very locomotive hammering at the head of the 'ACE' – The Atlantic Coast Express – on the mainline down through New Malden, and how it bucked and rolled on the tracks, travelling at full-tilt towards the south-west.



Standing beside it at Levisham, so many years later, brought back other memories of when our family moved from Scotland to Surrey in early January. We travelled by train from Perth to London, hauled by the magnificent, Coronation Class, *Duchess of Montrose* – I still have a Hornby Double-0 memento of the very locomotive, a Christmas present of childhood. When we arrived at Euston Station, my parents duly dispatched my brother and I to thank the driver for a safe journey, in an era when the pinnacle of all young boys' aspirations seemed to be to have a job as an engine driver.

Standing beside the cab of the gently hissing and very warm *Hartland*, chatting with the crew, dragged me still deeper back over the decades to that early journey to London and how I had hoped I might get invited onto the footplate.

For my Australian friends, used to Sydney temperatures but standing in the cold in Northern England, it was a remarkable experience, and one about to get better, when the driver gestured, 'jump on and we'll take you round with us to the other-end'; a very nice and memorable touch for my overseas visitors on a damp and misty December day.

Now, uncoupled, with thunderous chugs the powerful locomotive gently eased away from the carriages, across the points, back past the signal box and into position for the other end of the train, while railway officials waved and fussed to control the operation. With everything linked-up, and a sharp whistle, Santa and his guests soon departed on the return journey, their progress marked by the diminishing cloud of smoke and steam. Once again the four of us stood alone on the platform in the descending silence contemplating what a truly wonderful place it was to be.

Season's greetings.

Ian Carstairs

BUMBLE WOOD



One of the springs at Red Keld.
The walking pole is fully extended.



Juniper from local seed

THE WOODS AND FORESTS around the edges of the North York Moors National Park have in general become an accepted part of the landscape. Bumble Wood was always going to be an exception, causing problems for the National Park Authority and the Forestry Commission alike. Its former name, Wheeldale Plantation defines part of the problem. It is a plantation. More to the point it is a conifer plantation in the middle of a core area of heather moorland. Until the 2000's the National Park Authority and the Forestry Commission were unable to agree a Forest Design Plan, the management tool by which all Forestry Commission Woodlands are managed. The National Park Authority has a statutory duty to protect the special landscape qualities of the North York Moors; this is why it was created. The Forestry Commission has a statutory duty to protect and enhance the nation's store of trees and timber; this is why it was created. The conifer plantation should not be there but UK and international commitments did not support its removal either.

So how did Wheeldale Plantation become Bumble Wood?

As the new millennium progressed policies changed and new ideas for managing the wood were proposed. Most of the conifers will gradually be removed to be replaced by scattered native broadleaves over much of the area. Scattering trees and groups of trees allows for the return of the upland vegetation that typifies much of the moors. A gradual reduction in the area of conifers replaced by much softer looking oaks and rowans will sit better in the landscape and this was a plan that the national Park Authority could approve. Natural England also had to have input. Bumble Wood is almost surrounded by one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and encompasses part of another. Removing most of the conifers will benefit both SSSI's. There will be fewer conifers to seed on to the North York Moors SSSI around the outside of the wood and the native woodland in Scar End Wood SSSI will have the opportunity to 'break out' up the sides of the valley.

The Design Plan was approved and the name changed from Wheeldale Plantation to Bumble Wood in memory of deceased National Park Officer, David Arnold Foster, whose army nickname was 'Bumble'.

Is the plan working? I think so. Many areas have already had the conifer crop trees removed and this work is continuing. Of course the conifers have put down many seeds that are taking advantage of the light and establishing as trees. These take time and money to remove. However the fact is the 'plantation' is changing and as the years progress will look more and more semi-natural. Felling trees is the most drastic change, everything else in forestry is gradual and it will be decades before Bumble Wood really comes into its own. Not only will the landscape quality of the area see a gradual improvement some wildlife will also benefit. The butterfly, small pearl bordered fritillary is found there and as it is not a high flier, it should benefit from a much more openly-structured wood. Nightjars continue to nest there at present although they may abandon the area once the ground cover returns to heathland. North Yorkshire's nightjars appear to be 'hefted' to forest clear fells and restock areas, avoiding the open

moor. The large adder population should benefit from the changes with better ground cover and more open sunny spots but still with plenty of shelter and holes to hibernate in. At least one species of protected bird has nested there in the past but this is unlikely to stay and will probably desert to a large block like Cropton Forest if it can bully its way in.

There are a few features in Bumble Wood worthy of special mention. Archy Crag is a small rocky outcrop above the road at the eastern end. Its presence is a reminder that this whole area of moorland was once inundated by a cataclysmic periglacial flood event that scoured out many of the valleys we now have. Great torrents passed here exposing and fracturing the massive sandstone blocks. Just south west of Archy Crag on the south side of the stream the Ordnance Survey map shows a 'sheepfold'. This is likely to be a misinterpretation of the feature however. There are the remains of a small rectangular building constructed from finely dressed stone. No shepherd ever had a hut of this quality. A track leading down to it from above Archy Crag can just be discerned. This has stone revetment in places. Someone spent a fair amount of money on these structures. Paul Willet, the former wildlife ranger for the area, suspected it was from the early days of grouse shooting, it's certainly the best explanation I've heard. Following the track west for another mile or so brings you to the site of a little known *chalybeate*¹ spring. It is recorded as Red Keld but you will only find this name on the 1st edition OS maps. It is an interesting spring as it is not only rich in iron it also lays down 'tufa', not a huge amount but enough to create a mound not dissimilar to a burial mound. A few words of warning if you decide to look for Red Keld. It is behind a raised mound on the north side of the road amongst rushes. The ground can be very wet and stains boots, socks, and trousers red. The spring always has water in and the holes it emerges from are up to 4 feet deep. Be very cautious about getting too close. Slightly west of Red Keld and on the south side of the stream are the remains of Green Oak Fold. This isn't named on the current OS 1:25,000 map, but is named on large scale maps. A small ring is shown in a loop of the beck. This little fold interests me because it appears to be an early feature predating later better built folds. It is quite roughly made and the walls contain a number of orthostats or upright stones. It is currently obscured by a mass of dead collapsed pine trees but hopefully I can persuade someone to get the site cleared.

It is a pleasant walk up through the wood from the parking area on the Wheeldale Road at Hazelheads so give it a try. Oh, and look out for juniper growing between the road and the beck in the wood. These trees were grown from indigenous seed collected by Peter Woods and colleagues from some of the few remaining wild juniper on the moors.

Brian Walker

¹ Mineral springs containing iron. *Chalybeate* is Latinised Greek derived from a mythical iron making people.

THE SISKIN

Siskin on a garden feeder (photo M. Gray)



OUR ANNUAL influx of migrants from northern Europe began some time ago, but will likely continue for a while yet if the promised cold winter sets in. As I write it is but promised: by the time you read this it may well be with us!

We are lucky to be the temporary home to many winter migrants. Some, such as Blackbirds and Siskins come here regularly and join our residents. Others, such as Redpolls, Bramblings and Waxwings will travel only as far as is necessary to find food, so the number that reach the UK each year varies according to the availability of their preferred food supplies nearer home. Waxwings apart, they are mainly granivores, feeding on seeds such as alder and birch mast, and are only seen in our gardens in any numbers if these seeds are not plentiful, when they will visit feeders regularly and sometimes in quite large numbers.

The event that brought all this to the front of my mind was the arrival of a flock of Hawfinches at the Yorkshire Arboretum at Castle Howard. OK they were completely outnumbered by twitchers, but that's not the point! They are not often seen in the area, and the reasons for their occasional appearances are little understood. That got me wondering whether their presence might be an early indication that Hornbeam seeds are in short supply, and if that were so, whether other tree seeds might be lacking too. If they are, we could be in for some interesting visitors over the next few months. It was winter 2012/13 when last we experienced an influx of migrants to our gardens, following a generally wet and cool summer that resulted in a poor tree seed crop.

Apart from its colourful plumage the Hawfinch is distinguished mainly by the massive beak it needs to crack the seeds it chooses to eat. I have heard them referred to as flying nutcrackers. They are bulky birds, which appear to have a very short-tailed in flight. Their heads are orange-brown with a black eyestripe and bib, plus that massive bill, which is black in summer but paler in winter. The upper parts are dark brown and the underparts orange.

We shall see.....

However, back in the land of regular visitors, one of my favourite partial migrants is the Siskin. A delightful, colourful and busy little garden visitor which is around most of the year in small numbers, but which is far more common during the winter, especially cold ones. Now is the time to keep an eye open for them in your garden.

The Siskin is a lively finch somewhat smaller than a Greenfinch, with the rapid and bounding flight pattern so typical of finches. It is a resident breeder here in Yorkshire, though not seen in our gardens in any numbers during the summer. The male has a streaky yellow-green body, a yellow rump and a black crown and bib, and has a distinctly forked tail and a long narrow bill. The amount of black on the bib is very variable and its

size has been related to dominance within a flock. The plumage of the female is duller and more olive-coloured than the male with a greenish cap, a white bib, and a rump that is a slightly striped whitish yellow.

Siskins tend to breed more in the northwestern regions of Britain and generally winter near their breeding areas, although they do move north and south depending on food supplies and weather conditions. They are classified as Green Status, meaning they are not under any threat, having a vast global population. In the UK alone there are an estimated 375,000 breeding pairs.

Their migration pattern is in fact quite unusual: every few years in winter they almost irrupt southwards, arriving here in large numbers. The reasons for this behaviour are not really understood but are probably related to climatic factors and the availability of food, with overwintering birds moving to areas where food is more abundant. Ringing recoveries show that many of the Siskins which join our resident population come from Scandinavia.

Siskins are seed-eaters with smaller bills than most other finches, reflecting their particular diet, which is mainly cone seeds. Whilst being primarily granivores they do vary their diet depending on the season. In autumn and winter they eat deciduous tree seeds such as birch and alder, as well as joining other finches in cultivated areas and pastures to eat other seeds including those of thistles and dandelions. When feeding their young they will eat more insects, mainly beetles, as the proteins therein favour the rapid development of their chicks.

Like most migrant finches, Siskins visit gardens when food is harder to find in their natural habitats, and are apparently attracted to red coloured feeders! (I don't think I've ever seen one). They like nuts and oil rich seeds such as Niger and sunflower hearts, and will often stay on a feeder for a significant period of time, if they are not part of a flock.

Siskins are very active and restless birds, and are acrobatic feeders often hanging upside-down like tits. They are also very social, forming small cohesive flocks especially in autumn and winter. They are fairly trusting of humans making it possible to observe them from quite close by. During the breeding season however, they are much more timid and difficult to find.

Listen for their attractive song and you'll hear a sweet and harmonious "tilu", "tilu" call, especially when a flock of Siskins is gathered together. This pleasant mix of twitters and trills explains why they are sometimes raised in captivity.

Mike Gray

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest, and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please contact me or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw). If you know of a local organisation who would like a talk on garden birds call: **Mike Gray 07596 366342** or gbwmike@gmail.com.

TWELVE YEARS IN A MOORLAND PARISH

IN 1847, at the age of 33, John Christopher Atkinson made his way from Scarborough on horseback to take up his first incumbency as Vicar of Danby, thanks to the patronage of the seventh Viscount Downe. Taking over the parish from Daniel Duck, the last in a long succession of Honorary Curates, he eventually moved into his newly built Vicarage on Yall Flats Lane in 1855, where he was to remain until his death in 1900: an incumbency of fifty-three years.

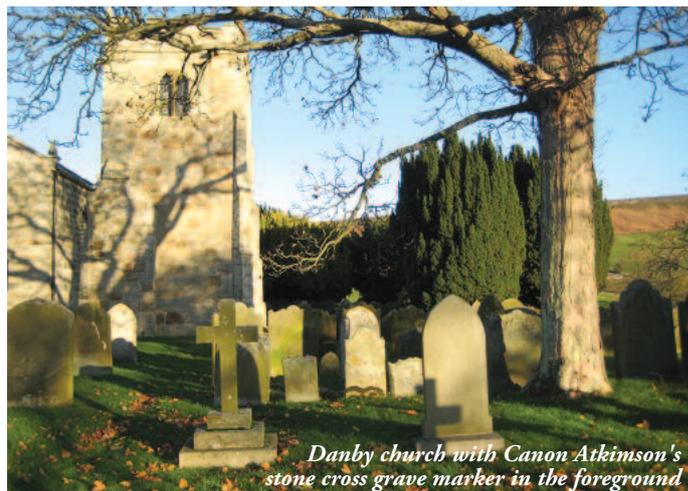
In 2005, at the age of 51, Michael John Hazelton made his way by car from Long Bennington in the diocese of Lincoln to take up his third incumbency as Vicar of Danby, thanks in part to the patronage of the twelfth Viscount Downe. Taking over from the Revd Bob Lewis, he became the eleventh Vicar, living in the same Vicarage as had Canon Atkinson, and remaining there for twelve years. It so happened that he was to be the last Vicar to live in that fine old Gothic house.

So runs the barest of comparisons between the first and eleventh Vicars of Danby. There is obvious continuity, both in the purpose of their ministry, i.e., the care of the parishioners of Danby and Castleton, and in the ecclesial structure of patronage and episcopacy which underpinned it. Thus it is possible for the present to be united with the past, and modern priesthood to find inspiration and guidance from what has gone before. Perhaps more interesting for the observer, however, are the differences which have developed over such a long period of time.

When Canon Atkinson arrived, it was to the people of Danby and Castleton and Lesser Fryup that he was to minister, latterly with the help of curates, the last of whom was George Bird, who succeeded him as the second Vicar in 1900. With an income from his glebe land of about £95 to £100 per annum in the mid nineteenth century, which was enough to employ a cook, housemaids and a gardener, Canon Atkinson was able to develop his interests in local history and dialects, natural history and stories for children, about which he published extensively (his book, *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*, being perhaps his most famous publication). It was not uncommon then for learned country priests to have the time and money to engage in things other than parish work, and we are fortunate now to have the fruits of much of it: Gilbert White, for example, who wrote his *Natural History of Selborne*, and Thomas Malthus on political economy, to name but two.

Canon Atkinson was a person ('parson') of note in the local community, one for whom some deference was to be expected: boys, for example, were to remove their caps when he passed by, and girls were to curtsy. The social structure in Victorian times was such that people knew their place within it, and, along with men such as George Macmillan, the London publisher and local landowner who was a personal friend of Canon Atkinson, the Vicar was near the top.

Moreover, Canon Atkinson could look forward to a life of stability, not being obliged to retire at 65 or 70 and leave his home, but able to remain in his vicarage until his death. His life, on the whole, was one of comparative peace and freedom though not, of course, without its ups and downs and the demands of looking after his parishioners.



Danby church with Canon Atkinson's stone cross grave marker in the foreground

On the arrival of the eleventh Vicar, the freehold system which gave Canon Atkinson his security was still in place, such that it was possible for him remain in post, should he so wish, until the age of seventy. In other ways, though, things were very different. Given the change in clergy income from glebe land to a national stipend, and the way the Church is financed as a whole, there was no longer one Vicar per parish, often with a curate, but rather one for several parishes. Thus the eleventh Vicar had five churches and three parishes, from Westerdale across to Moorsholm. Gone, too, was the kind of class system which automatically placed the clergy at the top of local society. Instead, the Vicar was simply one of the community, along with the Methodist minister, part and parcel of the local scene and, thank goodness, treated as an equal.

His ministry was indeed very much an ecumenical one, working alongside his friend and colleague, the Revd Alan Coates, and sharing in worship together. The community of Botton, too, once part of the Macmillan estate, was within his parish, and from which he derived much spiritual insight and personal inspiration. The tragedy of CVT's failure to understand and promote the founding ethos of Botton has been a source of great sorrow, both for the Vicar and many of his parishioners. It is to be hoped that whoever becomes the twelfth Vicar will continue to support those co-workers who are trying to keep the spirit of Botton alive.

It was a great privilege to serve in such a place. Long may the people of Danby, Castleton, Commondale, Westerdale and Moorsholm thrive, and long may the memory of Canon Atkinson continue to inspire his successors.

Michael Hazelton

Editor's note – Our thanks to Michael Hazelton for giving us this personal overview of his time as vicar in the parish of Danby. Our best wishes to him in his retirement.

HUMOUR FROM THE MOORS

A FAVOURITE YORKSHIRE TALE...

THE OLD FARMER'S wife had died and was buried in the graveyard of her local church. The farmer decided that he would like to have an inscribed headstone made for his beloved wife's grave, so off he went to see the village stonemason. As his wife was a devout Christian he left instructions with the stonemason to inscribe the legend '*Lord she was thine*' beneath her name and dates on the stone. The mason acknowledged the order and said it would take about a week to finish and erect the stone. At the end of the week he sent word to the farmer that the job was complete.

When his working day was over the farmer called at the graveyard and pay his respects to his late wife and see her new headstone. He was shocked to find that the mason had inscribed on the stone 'Lord she was thin'. He went off hastily to find the mason and tell him he had missed off the 'e' from the inscription. The stonemason apologised and said he would rectify his mistake as soon as he could.

The next day the farmer received a message from the mason saying that the mistake had been rectified. He set off immediately to the graveyard to view the inscription which now read '*E Lord she was thin*'.

SANTA CLAUS, FLYING REINDEER, FLY AGARIC AND OTHER MYTHS...



Glowing in the dark...



Amanita muscaria...the Fly agaric.

WINTER COMETH. First we shall have misty November mornings, then as the temperature tumbles frosts become likely. These two seasonal weather aspects usually put paid to the Mycological year...and to most things horticultural. Though many species of fungi can, and do, flourish in the damp and chill, only a very few can tolerate temperatures below freezing. A winter survivor, and indeed, a fine species in its own right, is the well know “Velvet Shank” (*Flammulina velutipes*). Frost and snow may come and go, but the tenacious Velvet Shank, clustered in glowing yolk-yellow glory (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTPmxB9AcDs>), will still be around in January and February...when most macro-fungi have long since decayed back in to the earth. How do they achieve this amazing ability to stay young and beautiful without lashings of Oil of Olay...or Ulay... Olaz? Well, there must be SOMETHING of a genuine chemical compound in it that is not the product of an advertising think-tank ...and there is. This from Wiki but anecdotally quite well know amongst field mycologists.

“In 2012, (Kaneka Corp.) developed an antifreeze based on a protein derived from radish sprouts, which has since been adopted for use in noodles and over 50 food products and frozen foods. Now, the collaborators have developed a new antifreeze material that has superior properties to the predecessor, such as the suppression of ice-crystal formation. The new antifreeze is based on xylomannan — a mixture of saccharides and a fatty acid found in the cell wall of the edible fungus, Velvet Shank.”

Well, that seems quite straightforward. The fungus contains anti-freeze... edible anti-freeze...and “sacharride”, or sugar, plus some useful “fatty” acid. In the middle of winter, this seems just the thing for a snack...sweet and fatty and stops you freezing solid. It would be unsurprising, then, that the “Winter Fungus” as it is often known as, would have many associated folk-lore tales attached to it. Any fungus which is in full flush in the middle of winter, day-go bright, clustered in quantity, easily accessible and quite pleasing to the palate (watch out, though, for poisonous look-alikes) must surely qualify as a prime candidate for the mythological musings of man... not so, as “science” has disavowed us of the myth many times. Cultivated, *Flammulina velutipes* is the white “Enokitake”, but the truth is often “cultivated”, too. Wiki again:

Enoki is highly rated in Japanese and Chinese cultures not just for its culinary properties but more for its medicinal features. It was shown to have certain chemical constituents (such as Flammulin, Proflammulin and Enokipodins)

that are able to boost the immune system **and are supposed to have anti-cancer agents as well as anti-viral and anti-bacterial properties.** This mushroom is furthermore **thought to reduce food allergies and is said to cure stomach ulcers when regularly eaten.**

Flammulina velutipes is furthermore **thought to have myco-remediation potential: its ability for lignin decomposition in combination with long growing seasons and being well adapted to growing in cold seasons could be a good combination to degrade toxic chemicals in soil (such as Polychlorobiphenyls) which usually take a long time to decompose.** (**Bold text is mine**)

Notwithstanding mythological claims of efficacy, there is no doubt that the less well informed are more likely to partake of nature’s bounty without forethought, leaving all to evolution...and as reindeer (remember the reindeer?) live in cold and frosty environs, it would seem natural, as they do not to my knowledge have access to learned dissertations on fungi, for them to devour anything available in times of scarcity. Lichens, considered to be more fungi than algae these days AND fungi are known to be consumed as part of their “normal” diet, but I read this with mythological rather than mycological interest many years ago:

“Reindeer go crazy for Fly Agaric mushroom (*Amanita muscaria*), which the Lapp people traditionally used for its hallucinogenic effects. Lapp shamans used to eat the mushroom during the midwinter pagan ceremonies of Annual Renewal. The first effect of eating it was a deep coma-like slumber. When the shamans woke the drug stimulated their muscular systems, so that a small effort produced spectacular results - the intoxicated person perhaps making a gigantic leap to clear the smallest obstacle. The effect on animals was generally the same, and a mushroom-maddened super-reindeer traditionally guarded each shaman. When missionaries first reached Santa’s native Lapland, they found a thriving pagan myth of reindeer flight. Rather than oppose it, they shrewdly assimilated the stories into the folklore of Christmas and Saint Nicholas. This then, is the true origin of the legend of Santa’s flying sleigh. The colour scheme of his outfit is taken from the unmistakable red and white cap of the fungus. Lapps still scatter the mushroom in the snow to round up reindeer. Incidentally, the urine of people who eat the mushroom contains substantial quantities of the isoxazole derivatives that produce the intoxicating effect. Impoverished Lapps knew this, and collected round the huts of rich Lapps who indulged in the mushroom at Christmas parties. When their overlords came out to relieve themselves in the snow,

the serfs collected the urine to drink. When they, in turn, urinated in the snow, the reindeer fought to utilise what remained of the mushroom's intoxicating effects."

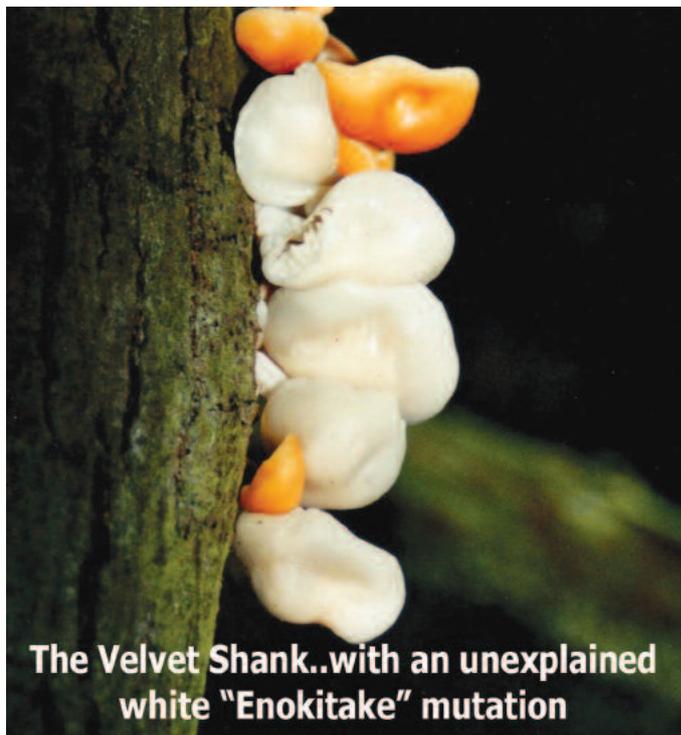
Copyright © 2001-2003 Fungimap. Source Michael Baine.

So Merry Christmas...

Tom Kirby

Note. The back cover of this Voice illustrates the "official" Christmas card for the North Eastern Fungus Study Group, a constitutional charity dedicated to the Conservation and study of Fungi. If you are at all concerned by the appearance of an hallucinogenic mushroom on your Christmas Card, it is worth pointing out that though the Fly Agaric is known (used and abused) globally for its more notorious properties, the derived English name is of much more benign and pragmatic origins. Most of the toxin (Muscimol) in the fungus is in the peelable "skin" of the cap. Apparently the good old Middle Age...a safe period to mythologically muse on... Brits, used to put the skin in a saucer of milk until it went putrid and attractive to houseflies. Upon ingestion of the milk, the flies developed an engine fault causing them to misfire and putter in a quite alarming fashion...whilst at the same time, making them much easier to hit. It may be a myth, but I like it.

So... If you would like to obtain these beautiful 7"X5" Cards for future Christmases you should contact Sally Pattison: Telephone 016780 826729 or email sallypattison@hotmail.co.uk



ESK VALLEY LINE

SUNDAY TRAINS AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES

YOU CAN NOW enjoy travelling on the Esk Valley line on a Sunday throughout the year. Moor Sustainable CIC helped the Esk Valley Railway Development Company (EVRDC) promote the new all year-round Sunday service with a stall at Whitby station promoting local businesses in the area. We also helped update the section on the EVRDC website promoting green travel <http://eskvalleyrailway.co.uk/green.html>.

Advocating the use of the train rather than driving, ties in with one of Moor Sustainable's aims to reduce the use of carbon in North East Yorkshire. During the past year we have updated our website to incorporate material that was previously on the Esk Valley Community Energy Group website with our energy related projects. Now you can find examples of what people in the area have done to make their houses more energy efficient and ways in which they are generating electricity and using renewable heat all in one place.

Earlier in the year we held a Seed Swap in Lythe Community Shop and hope to hold the event again in early Spring. Look out for information nearer the time. We found it a great way to find out what people like growing and to come across new vegetables and flowers to try. This is a great way for us to help improve the natural and built environment.

We are now busy organising the New Year's Eve ceilidh in Great Ayton as part of our work to help develop stronger communities. If you are still not sure what to do on New Year's Eve, then get in touch to see if there are any tickets left.

To find out more about the work of Moor Sustainable visit our website – www.moorsustainable.org.uk or contact Caryn Loftus T: 01642 723137 E: carynloftus@moorsustainable.org.uk

Caryn Loftus

ESK VALLEY RAILWAY

ENJOY
GREEN SUNDAYS
TRY THE TRAIN

Cut your carbon footprint

Help keep our countryside beautiful, tranquil and pollution-free

Relax and enjoy the view

Now all year round Sunday service

Rail is the environmentally-friendly way to travel

For more information visit eskvalleyrailway.co.uk/green.html

@EVRDC

Timetables

northern AC:RP

Moor Sustainable CIC

AUTUMN



Barn owl

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) (photo WildStock)

AS I WALKED into the log shed one day last week at dusk, an owl flew out, no more than 6 inches above my head. I am sure I was rather more surprised than he was. With a wingspan of some 3 feet, and very little headroom beneath the opening lintel, I was amazed to not hear or feel any air movement, as it passed me in total silence. This is of course exactly how they are able to hunt their prey. Judging by the amount of lime below roosting spots on the beams, this was by no means its first use of the shed. It is encouraging to see such wildlife clearly making our buildings part of its habitat. Indeed, listening to the calls at night over the last couple of months, there is a very healthy population of owls here. Unfortunately I wasn't able to see exactly what type of owl it was.

In this area, we can expect to see five types of owls - barn, tawny, little, short eared and long eared. Apart from the little owls, the others are much the same size. The barn owl is very pale and really quite unmistakable with its very nocturnal habit. The others all have similar beautifully flecked plumage, and may be seen more in daylight. The long eared can be recognised by its ear tufts, less round face, and orange eyes, whilst the tawny has black eyes, and the short eared very yellow eyes. There has been a successful initiative over recent years to support barn owls with nesting boxes, and to ring young ones to enable them to be monitored; their population now looks very strong. It may well be that now attention should focus on tawny owls and short eared owls.

My daily walk over this period has experienced summer through to winter in a seemingly short period. The end of September saw the departure of the swallows and other summer visitors, and the very welcome collapsing down of the bracken which had been rampant in July and August. Walking became easy again by mid September, but the quietness of the birds on my routes remained very obvious. Indeed it was only robins and wrens that were reliably visible every day, and were still singing and making their presence audible. Of course our range of finches and tits have been all around, but rather more in the valleys and in the gardens than on the moors. The strength of the wren's song has been heard frequently, as well as their scolding churring alarm call.

Some of us will remember that the wren has been celebrated on the old farthing coin - something unfamiliar to anyone born less than 60 or so years ago. In fact the wren design was first used in 1937, for coins under the reign of George VI, and continued to be issued until 1956, under Elizabeth II. Surprisingly, they weren't removed from circulation and demonetised until the very end of 1960. Of course there had been very few items still charged in farthing denominations during those latter years - all I can remember were items like shirt collars at the laundry. Really, none of the wren farthings can have had that much purchasing power during their lives; it would be surprising if the cost of producing them didn't exceed their actual value in use. Nevertheless, the farthing denomination had been in use for nearly a thousand years when it was finally withdrawn, and it was perhaps fitting that right at the end of its long life, it was chosen to celebrate one of our common and favourite small birds.

During the autumn we've seen the return of the geese, maybe to the chagrin of local farmers, but nevertheless the sight of their formation flights overhead generally associated with a lot of chatter and calling, often at dusk or even later, is a very characteristic feature of autumn. I've not seen many classic winter visitors yet, although the recent early snow may hasten some. There have been some redwings around the top fields on the low moor, and also groups in flight of small pale birds that may have been snow buntings (I couldn't clearly see). Following the prodigious growth of most things we have seen this past summer, there have been bumper crops of fruit and berries, many of which are still holding in the hedgerows. This has so far provided ample feed for birds and animals, and is only now perhaps starting to run out so we may begin to expect to see more feeding closer to our walks and gardens. Certainly, with all the leaves now pretty well off the vegetation, cover is removed, and we are getting a clearer view of the wildlife. The winter period now upon us will provide yet more opportunity to watch our local wildlife and nature. Let's hope it will give us the opportunity to appreciate more winter visitors, without chilling us too much, or lasting too long!

John Pinkney

NORTH YORK MOORS: WALKING, CAIRN BUILDING AND ANCIENT BURIALS

YOU MAY BE familiar with the Cleveland Way as it winds its way across the top of Greenhow Bank and perhaps been tempted off your route at Burton Howe to head over towards Baysdale. Why is Burton Howe marked in gothic lettering and why does it say *Tumuli*? What does the word mean? You may have stopped to take in the view from the mound with the boundary stone on top and perhaps, whilst eating your sandwiches or resting your legs, moved a few stones around or brought up another couple from the track to place on the heap. But did you know that Burton Howe is a prehistoric burial mound which someone has dug into and inserted an upright stone to mark a land boundary? Why should that be important?

HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

Piles of loose stones might be the remains of something built in prehistory. During the Bronze Age 3-4,000 years ago, it was the custom to bury people in mounds called barrows (sometimes marked as *tumuli* or *tumulus* on maps). These were often built from stone and were located on hill tops or ridges of higher land. The dead may have been buried with pots or flint tools so disturbing these structures disturbs the archaeological story contained inside.

As a very numerous and distinctive feature of the North York Moors landscape, barrows constitute a significant proportion (about 65%) of the 842 protected sites or Scheduled Monuments, within the National Park.

WHY PEOPLE BUILD CAIRNS TODAY

Cairns, simply piles of stone, are often built today by walkers to help mark a route which is difficult to see and this is especially true in the North York Moors where there are few prominent landscape features, where fog can divert the walker from the right route or where the heather is deep and makes the path hard to locate. Or maybe there's a place people always stop for a breather after climbing a steep hill and look down. A handy pile of loose stone can easily be used as a quarry for creating a new heap or cairn in a better place and it may become the custom to add a stone or two when anyone passes, or even to take up another stone each time a place is visited. In this way, big cairns can be created and become important markers.

WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?

The problem with building cairns today is that using stones from archaeological features like barrows disturbs the information contained within them, clues that archaeologists use to build up a picture of what happened in the past. For instance, how the structure was built and used, how it was developed for different burials, perhaps over several generations, or what objects were buried with the dead.

This does not mean that every archaeological feature will one day be excavated by archaeologists but it does mean that the features are so important that they deserve to be left undisturbed for future generations: if something 4,000 years old is disturbed, that unique information is lost for ever. Many of these barrows are nationally important and protected as Scheduled Monuments.

It may be that some artefacts moved during modern cairn building will not be recognised as such and simply be thrown away, including small fragments of bone which might tell us a lot about the person buried there. Moving stones may disturb post holes or remains of other structures. Inserting a plaque to commemorate a loved one adds a modern intrusion, or it may be fixed to a stone with prehistoric carvings or which is part of a prehistoric feature. Modern graffiti are sometimes carved into the stones on a prehistoric monument.



OTHER EFFECTS

Beyond the obvious problems, these activities can have other impacts. Making something more visible means that more visitors may be attracted to it, creating erosion by following a single line to the summit. In some cases a new cairn might bury or obscure the monument altogether.

WHAT THE NATIONAL PARK IS DOING

To put things right, work is under way as part of the North York Moors National Park Authority's Monument Management Scheme (MMS) which is funded by Historic England. This includes a group of our volunteers monitoring the condition of the barrows and carrying out remedial work to repair the worst damage. We will also be raising awareness of the issue amongst walkers by posting information on web sites and writing articles in magazines.

If you're walking on the Cleveland Way at Live Moor near Whorlton you might notice a new information sign next to a prominent scheduled round barrow. A modern cairn was removed by the National Park apprentice team earlier this year, revealing the stony ancient burial mound underneath. We hope the information provided will help walkers understand why remedial action was needed and will encourage people to protect the archaeology and help preserve it for future generations. A second walkers' cairn on Raisdale Moor was taken down by volunteers taking great care not to disturb the archaeological remains beneath and we expect more burial mounds with walkers' cairns' to be tackled early in 2018.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

When in the countryside, it is best to leave things alone and not disturb anything you find. Be aware of the Countryside Code which says "Our heritage matters to all of us – be careful not to disturb ruins and historic sites." <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code>

You can find out if something is protected by visiting the Historic England web site <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/> where you can search by feature name, or on a map.

So the next time you find a nice sheltered spot for a rest on top of a hill, you can think about more than just enjoying the view and your lunch. You could be helping to preserve an important site for another 4,000 years!

Linda Smith

Archaeological Consultant working for the North York Moors National Park Authority on the Monument Management Scheme

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 2 age 3 cycling 6 Siltion 8 eighth 9 star 10 anagram 11 Noel 15 iceberg 19, 28 down, 12, & 21 down The Holly and the Ivy, 22 net 23 librarians 24 hydrate 26 bibbiphilite 29 affable 30 sassy **Down:** 1 angel 4 & 16 across Christmas cracker 5 rare 6 sag 7 nut 9 standard 10 American 11 no 13 hi 14 necktie 17 Celt 18 rare 19 rare 20 Edam 25 anoraks 27 lifts **Answer to anagram question:** SEASONAL GREETINGS



Skylarks



Hello younger readers. Welcome to your 'Winter' page.

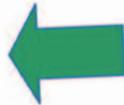
What changes from summer to autumn did you notice? You perhaps saw the leaves on the trees changing colour. Lots of trees have lost their leaves now. There are some that don't. Do you know what these type of trees are called?

Here are some that do not lose their leaves, can you name them? Answers at the bottom of the page.



You might use some of these trees to decorate your house this Christmas.

There are lots of things to look forward to during the winter and around Christmas. You might make one of these



When you make one of these, how many of these do you think you use? If you answered 'a lot' you would be right.... It is about 55 million to 60 million. That is a lot of snowflakes!!

Are snowflakes the same? It would seem that all snowflakes are slightly different (unique). Lots of snowflakes are nearly the same, but not quite. Snowflakes are basically 'six sided' but can differ very slightly from each other. Next time it snows, try and catch some snowflakes and count their sides and see how different they are... watch they don't melt in your hand. See you next time Skylarks. Have a lovely Christmas. 😊

Answers to quiz, left to right: 1. Holly, 2. Juniper, 3: Scots Pine



NYMA ORGANISED WALKS – FIRST QUARTER 2018

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY – HIGH CLIFFE, GUISBOROUGH

Meet at 10.30 at junction for Little Waterfall Farm on the A171. There is a cul-de-sac just off the A171 behind bus stop (GR634159), c. 6.5 circular mile walk via High Cliffe Nab and then return. Please contact walk leaders Heather & Colin Mather if you would like to join walk. Telephone 01287 669104 or email heathercolin67@gmail.com

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2018 – CAPTAIN COOK'S MONUMENT

Walk will start at Gribbdale Gate (NZ542110) Meet at 10.00 for c. 5 mile walk. Start with climb from car park to monument, then east along ridge through woods, then drop down by road to Bankside Farm, west through woodland and then head north returning to car park. Please contact walk leaders Cal & Dave Moore if you would like to join walk flightbrand@gmail.com

SATURDAY 3 MARCH – PERCY RIGGG

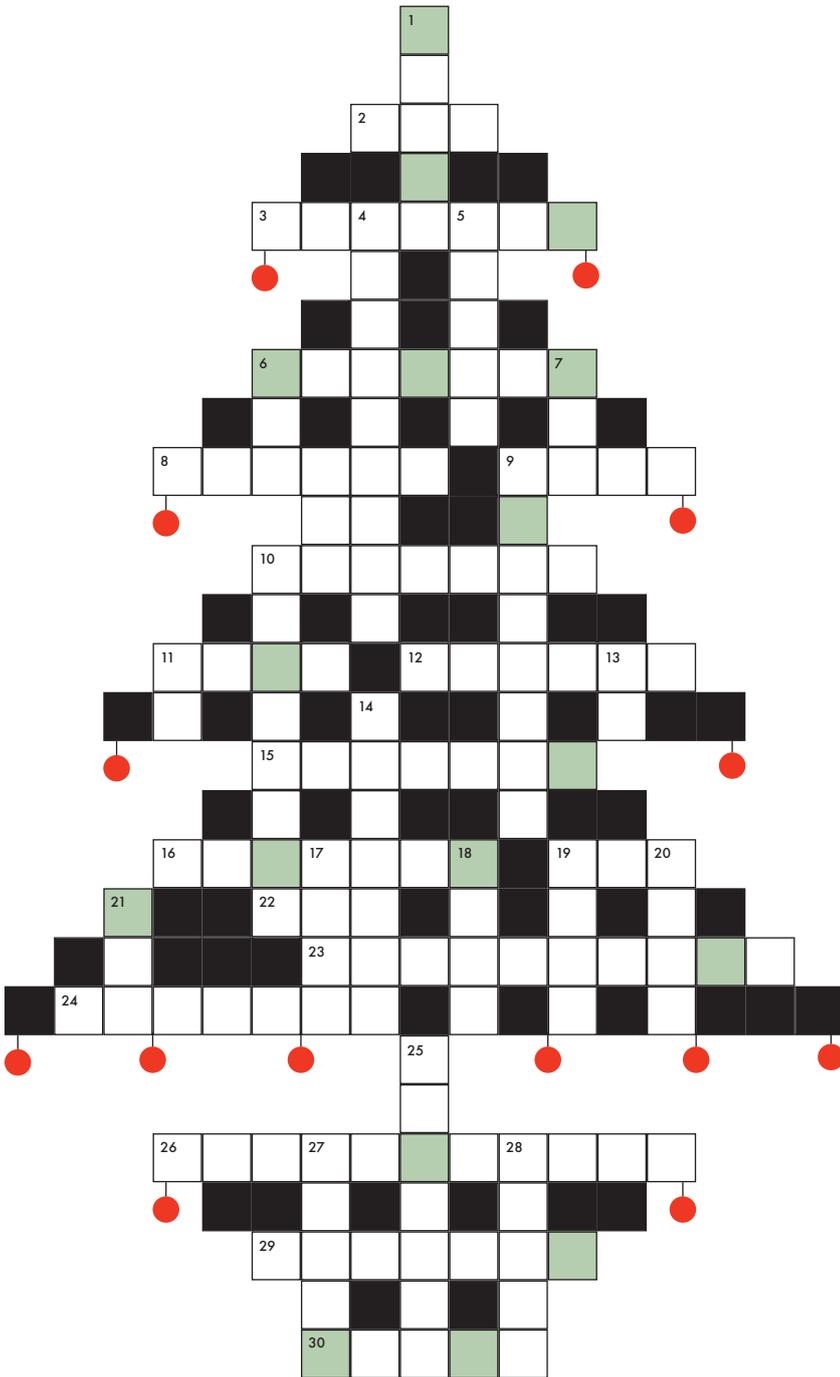
Meet 10.30 Percy Rigg (GR 607119) at gate where tarmac ends for a 5.5 mile walk via Hutton Moor, Highcliff Gate and Sleddale. Mostly flattish open moor with one short climb. Tea Glebe Cottage café, Kildale. Please contact walk leader Wendy Smith if you would like to join walk: wendy.smith@uku.co.uk

NYMA - HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

Please note that all persons participating in NYMA group walks, events, and voluntary activities must consider their own fitness levels and abilities to be adequate for the challenge. All persons must be properly attired and equipped for the prevailing weather conditions and terrain and act in a responsible and considerate safety-conscious manner at all times. Please declare to the walk leaders any health problems that may be relevant on the day and ensure you carry on your person your name and contact details.

The safety and welfare of all our walkers is of paramount importance. Thank you.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No 79 BY AMANUENSIS



ACROSS:

- 2 Savage grows older in the end (3)
- 3 Healthy way to go round (7)
- 6 Leg extension on dairy product (7)
- 8 Sequential number of this clue (6)
- 9 Tsar becomes a shining light (4)
- 10 Clue 20, for example (7)
- 11 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ? (4)
- 12 See 19 across
- 15 Hazard mostly found under water (7)
- 16 See 4 down
- 19, 28 down, 12, 21 down
Evergreen carol? (3,5,3,3,3)
- 22 Fine mesh snare (3)
- 23 Bookish people perhaps? (10)
- 24 Just add water? (7)
- 26 Could very likely be one of 24 across? (11)
- 29 A very loud sailor the French find friendly (7)
- 30 Insolent in America (5)

DOWN:

- 1 Glean from the top of the Christmas tree perhaps (5)
- 4 & 16 across
Always a popular pull at this time of year (9,7)
- 5 Become enraged when Irish rebels take a little tellurium (5)
- 6 Slump created when oxygen, for example, flows backwards (3)
- 7 Canute's a madman at heart (3)
- 9 For approved example take erect position on a short road (8)
- 10 Eric embraced by a man from the USA (8)
- 11 Refused to turn on? (2)
- 13 Short greeting from above one hears (2)
- 14 Often knotted (7)
- 17 Cancel tryst with hidden tribesman (4)
- 18 Darker area seldom seen inside (4)
- 19 Starter has bitter taste in the middle (4)
- 20 Made into cheese (4)
- 21 See 19 across
- 25 Ask Rona for outdoor clothing (&)
- 27 Flits about and raises up (5)

Take the letters from the coloured squares and rearrange in the boxes to make a phrase often used this time of year.

Answers are on page 12

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SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND



I THINK butterflies and moths are fantastic and precious creatures. I consider it very important to keep an eye on them and help to conserve them. So, several years ago I volunteered to take part in a 'butterfly transect' organised by Butterfly Conservation and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at Fen Bog on the North Yorkshire Moors. The transect involves walking along a given route, each and every week, from the beginning of April till the end of September, in all weathers. My walk is divided into eight separate areas and my task is to identify and record all butterflies seen in each particular sector. Temperature and wind strength/direction must also be recorded. This particular site was chosen for me so that I could keep an eye on the small resident population of Large heath which exist on the bog. Their caterpillars eat only Cotton grass, a plant that needs very wet acidic conditions in order to thrive. Other speciality species which are resident on the reserve are the Small pearl bordered fritillary and the Dark green fritillary, whose caterpillars munch on the leaves of the Common dog violet and Marsh violets, both of which are common on the Fen Bog nature reserve. Green hairstreak and Small heath also live in the same vicinity alongside the commoner more mobile species.

But the beautiful thing about walking around the nature reserve all summer is getting to know the other flora and fauna which abounds there. I was delighted to stumble upon a small patch of wild Cranberry scrambling over a mound of delicate sphagnum moss, its delicate little pink flowers are just wonderful to behold. The Chickweed wintergreen, found amongst the bracken litter, may have a mundane name but it shines like a little white star amongst the bleak heathland. In late summer the stunning yellow Bog asphodel takes pride of place.

It is no surprise that in such a wet place dragonflies and damselflies are a common sight. The wonderfully named Golden ringed dragonfly is an acidic water specialist and is often the first to make an appearance, soon followed by the Common and Southern hawkers, and the enigmatic Keeled skimmer, a rare species in Yorkshire but one which I have also seen at Tranmire bog and Jagger beck.

Some very rare moths can also be spotted on my weekly ramble. This year I came across a marvellous Golden-rod brindle. This moth is rarely seen in Yorkshire and one that I had been searching for in different locations for years.

However, it is not just the wildlife that makes my visits so worthwhile and enjoyable, it is the people I meet too. This year I came across a man with a 'sweep net'. He was enthusiastically wafting his large white net amongst the vegetation, periodically peering into its depths to scrutinise the contents. I approached him and asked if he was searching for micro moths? 'Oh no, they are far too easy' he replied, 'I'm a dipterist' Ah, a man who studies flies, I'd bagged myself a new species to add to my collection of 'ists'. After a short natter I let him carry on with his wafting (fly catching). A few weeks later I came across another gentleman with a similar sweep net and conducting himself in a similar manner. Once again I showed my ignorance and approached him greeting him with 'Hallo, dipterist by any chance?' He looked me up and down and replied 'why no young man, flies are far too easy, I'm an arachnologist.' It goes without saying he was added to my "ists" list too. It just goes to show a visit to Fen Bog is always full of new discoveries and adventures, and I haven't even mentioned the birds or reptiles that I am privileged to see as well as the fascinating fungi - the list goes on!

So, why not pay Fen Bog a visit? July - September are the best months but there is always something of interest for those who are willing to look. You never know you may even bump into a welly-wearing weirdo toting a notebook and pen, and you will be able to add a lepidopterist to your list! Good luck.

Hawkmoth

Further information on Fen Bog can be obtained from the Reserve Manager – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust – Telephone: 01904 659570 – info@ywt.org

You can keep up to date with Hawkmoth sightings as he is now on Twitter as GPF MOTHMAN1. On a regular basis, he posts photos and information of the interesting moths that he has observed and caught as well as that of any other particularly interesting flora and fauna he encounters.

Voice of the Moors - extra copies can be obtained by sending address details and remittance to Voice, Piper House, 54 Church Street, Castleton, Whitby, NY, YO21 2EL. £2.65 plus 80p postage per copy. Please make cheques out to North Yorkshire Moors Association. Thank you.

£ 2.65
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Illustration by Sally Pattison (see page 9)

**Wishing Everyone a Peaceful Christmas
& a Happy & Prosperous New Year**