

Recorders – your sightings to the following please

Amphibians and Reptiles - Denis O'Connor - 01943 465107 denisoconnor47@yahoo.co.uk 14 Riverside Avenue, Otley, LS21 2RT

Bees, Wasps and Ants - Catherine Burton - 07825687193 catherine.catwasp@gmail.com

Birds - Sam Barker - 07479274029 sambarker97.sb@gmail.com

Botany
- **Higher Plants, Ferns & Allies - Bruce Brown - 01943 467519** - brucebrown3@gmail.com
- **Bryophytes - Gordon Haycock - 01943 968112** gordon.haycock@haycockandjay.co.uk

Butterflies - Nyree Fearnley - 07811 066971 – david.nyree@btinternet.com.

Dragonflies - David Alred - 01943 862930 joanalred@talktalk.net—41 Hall Drive, Burley-in-Wharfedale LS29 7LR

Fungi—Andy Woodall - 07725 819326 woodallandy69@gmail.com

Ladybirds - Anne Riley - 01943 862916 j.a.riley@btinternet.com

Mammals - Rachel Huxham - 07818 401619 - mammals.wns@gmail.com. Address for postal records available on request.

Moths (macro and micro) - Aidan Smith - 07712 156793 wharfedalenatsmoths@gmail.com

Weather - Peter & Sheila Bancroft - 01943 864943 - plbancroft@yahoo.co.uk

Birding

Please ring the Leader if planning to attend and cancel explicitly if you need to do so. Please car-share if possible. . Bring RSPB /YWT card where appropriate. More details and directions from Leader.

Sat Apr 19 **Above Grassington and Conistone**
Looking for displaying Lapwing, Curlew and other waders. Circuit up to Yarnbury, across to Bycliffe Road and back along the Dales Way. Distance 12km. Meet 10am at the main Grassington National Park Centre Car Park (SE 002637) - there is a charge. Limited parking at Yarnbury (SE016659) to avoid the steep hill – car share from VC car park suggested. Packed lunch advised!
Leader: Iain Manfield - 07952 275440

Sun May 18 **Birding on Flamborough Head**
Breeding season on the Yorkshire cliffs! Meet/park 10.30am at the Lighthouse car park (TA 254706) - pay and display—online payment possible through the MiPermit app. Packed lunch advised.
Leader: Phil Galtry - 07969 121956

Thur May 22 **Looking for Long-Eared Owls at Denton**
Meet/park at Moorside Farm, Denton (SE141503), 7.45pm. We will walk uphill, enjoying birdsong and hoping for hunting owls.
Numbers limited—please contact Helen Steward on 07760 883865 to book your place.
Leader: Andy Jowett - 07534 458112 and Paul Wheatley

Thur June 12 **Staveley Nature Reserve**
Meet/park 9am reserve car park SE369630. Packed lunch may be advisable.
Leader: Nigel Steels - 07794 992189

Sat Jun 28 **Birdwatching on Ilkley Moor**
Joint event with Friends of Ilkley Moor. Meet White Wells car park, 9am; will finish around 11am.
Leaders: Tracy Gray and Iain Manfield - 07780 535860

Sat Aug 23 **RSPB St Aidan's**
Come and see late summer waders, terns and ducks at one of our best local reserves. Meet/park reserve car park (SE399287) 10am. Packed lunch may be advisable.
Leader: Nigel Steels - 07794 992189

Improve your skills

Fri May 2 **Peatland botany skills with Yorkshire Peat Partnership**
Meet/park at 10am at Moorside Barn, Denton (SE141503). Clothing: waterproof footwear essential and wet weather gear recommended. Packed lunch optional – if weather fair we may eat lunch on site. Bring notebook, hand lens if you have. Terrain/difficulty: at times tricky – exposed, some rough vegetation and boggy areas.
Numbers limited—please contact Helen Steward on 07760883865 to reserve your place.
Leader: Lucy Lee - 07814 729290

Sat May 3 Morning **Butterflies at Sun Lane**
A half day looking at the whites and other Spring butterflies. Meet at 10am at SE157465. Bring binoculars if possible, and a packed lunch if you wish. Please contact Nyree if planning on coming on 07811 066971.

Sat July 20 **Better at Botany—Rodley Nature Reserve**
Joint event with Bradford Botany Group. Rodley is not just for birds; it punches well above its weight when it comes to plants, offering an amazing range of habitats! Meet/park 10.30am outside the visitor centre SE 234365. Bring a packed lunch, cafe offers drinks and cakes only. Leaders: Andy Woodall - 07725 819326 and Sky Wallis.

Tues Aug 12 Afternoon **Bugs around Burley—an insect hunt with Anne Riley**
Meet/park 1.30pm at Scalebor Pavilion car park, SE158456 – take the right turn AFTER the entrance into the Scalebor estate as you go up Moor Lane, which has a footpath sign.
Numbers limited to 6 owing to the nature of the activity—please book your place with Anne Riley on 01943862916, if planning to come.

Tues Sept 2 Evening **Bats about Ilkley**
Meet/park Darwin Gardens car park (SE117471) at 7pm. Please wear sensible gear and bring a torch. Weather dependent! - if wet weather is forecast, please contact leader to check walk will go ahead, Leader: Andrew Milne - 07908 475198.

Moth-trapping with Aidan Smith—dates to follow
Mammal trap and release at Denton - joint event with Yorkshire Mammal Group—date to follow.



THE WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 509241

SUMMER 2025

President - Ian Brand - 07854 888206 - ian.nats1945@gmail.com

Vice President - Peter Riley - 01943 862916 - peter.b.riley@btinternet.com

Secretary - Gordon Haycock - 01943 968112 - gordon.haycock@haycockandjay.co.uk

Treasurer - Phil Reed - 07502 108355 - philreed-nats@gmail.com, 15, Princess Road, Ilkley LS29 9NP.

Membership Team - Ros Lilley and Jenny Watson 07956003498 - membership.wns@gmail.com

Summer Programme Secretary - Helen Steward - 07760883865 - helensteward57@gmail.com

Website Administrator—Aidan Smith - 07712 156793— wharfedalenatsmoths@gmail.com

Webinar Co-ordinator—James Tate-Smith 07974 809396— jamesstatesmith@gmail.com

Outreach—Catherine Burton—07825 687193— catherine.catwasp@gmail.com

Safeguarding and Charity Commission—Steve Parkes—07770 840156—parkes.steve@hotmail.co.uk

Karen Shackleton 07790707419 karenshackleton@hotmail.com
Jeff Davitt 07919690769 jeffdavitt@onetel.com

WNS

Founded 1945 Member of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union
Member of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Tuesday Evening Nature Walks

(easy walking, experts on hand; usually 2 – 3 miles maximum)

Meet at 7-00pm unless otherwise stated

Please car-share where possible!

May 6 Barden and Strid Wood

Our traditional first walk of the new Tuesday evening programme! Come and look for pied flycatchers, redstarts, dippers, and more. Meet at Barden Bridge SE052574. Leader: Ros Lilley - 07956 003498

May 13 Weston Woods

Come and explore these local Wharfedale woods, now saved for nature by the local community. Drink afterwards at the Horse and Farrier, Otley, for those who wish. Meet/park St David's Road, Otley, junction with Six Dales Way SE197468. Leaders: Francesca Bridgewater - 07940 917331 and Ian Brand 07854 888206

May 20 Beer, Banter and Botany in Otley

Meet/park at Courthouse car park SE203457 for a botanical walk around Otley, followed by a drink in the Black Horse. Leader: Ian Brand - 07854 888206

Jun 3 Baildon Moor

Meet/park at Baildon Moor car park SE143407. for an evening stroll across Baildon moor. There should be a good possibility of seeing breeding curlew and lapwing, as well as the chance of barn owls, little owls and other interesting wildlife. Leader: Andy Woodall - 07725 819326

Jun 10 Horn Crag Quarry, Silsden

People may be aware of the valiant campaign to prevent Horn Crag Quarry re-opening for the extraction of stone. Come and see the site and some of the local flora and fauna. Meet at the Bandstand in Silsden SE042465. Parking arranged with Kings Arms.

Leader: Sarah Walker - 07535 314974

Tuesday Evening Nature Walks continued

Jun 17 An Addingham nature walk from village to lower moorside (and back)

Joint event with Addingham Environment Group. Meet/park Memorial Hall Car Park (opposite the Fleece) - SE079497. Taking in: Old Station Way wildflower meadow, the Hollow Lane and medieval field patterns, The Street Local Wildlife Site and glacial meltwater channel, Stegholes Local Wildlife Site (orchids and betony), Hall Gill (Himalyan balsam and Giant hogweed now under control), Lumb Ghyll Wood Local Wildlife Site (ancient semi-natural woodland, water quality). Mainly on footpaths with some uneven ground, steep inclines and wall stiles. Drink at The Swan to follow, for those who'd like to join.

Leaders: Rick Battarbee (07933 321028) and Jan Hindle (07821 467214).

Jun 24 Ben Rhydding Tree Trail

An opportunity to walk round this relatively new trail and appreciate the highlighted trees. Meet/park at the corner of Margerison Rd and Bolling Rd adjacent to St John's Church, SE132476.

Leader: Chris Forshaw - 07424 516420 or 01943 601272 .

Jul 1 Darwin in Ilkley

Come along and hear from two local experts about Charles Darwin's connections with Ilkley. Meet/park at Darwin Gardens Car Park, SE 117471.

Leaders: Mike Dixon (07908 153325) and Greg Radick.

Summer Visits *Bring lunch if required*

May 17 (10.30am-12.30pm)

Broughton Sanctuary Rewilding Project
Meet at Yellison Farm Barns car park, opposite Land Rover Experience, Carleton, SD949495, at 10.15am. **NB Do not go to The Hall, Utopia or Avalon. Please arrive promptly—we will be heading off at 10.30am sharp.**
Leader: River Six - 07854 242990.

Jun 13 (Fri)

Butterflies at Scargill House, Kettlewell
A full day, or as long as you wish, pulling bracken to maintain habitat for the Scotch Argus. Meet at 10.00am at SD975711. Bring gloves if possible, and a packed lunch. Please contact Nyree Fearnley if planning on coming on 07811 066971.

Jun 18 (Wed pm)

Braythorne Orchard
Come and see what two of our members have done to improve 4 acres of previously agricultural land for nature. Meet/park at 2pm in the layby on Greenmires Lane, Grid ref SE252497. The visit will last around 2 hours— bring a drink.
Leader: Andy Lawrence - 07891 985684

Jun 29 (Sun)

10am-3pm

Bioblitz at Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits
Come and help record plants, insects, animals and birds at a local nature reserve! All welcome to this family-friendly event with pond dipping, nature trail and quiz. Meet/park Moss and Moor car park, (SE142478) at 10am. Bring a packed lunch.
Leader: Steve Parkes - 07770 840156

Jul 5 (Sat)

Threshfield Quarry Butterflies
A full day—range of species including Dark Green Fritillary, Small Heath, and possibly Northern Brown Argus. Meet at 10.00am at SD981638. Bring binoculars if possible, and a packed lunch. Please contact Nyree on 07811 066971 if coming.

Jul 29 (Tues)

Rodley Nature Reserve
Exclusive access to this marvellous reserve for an outing encompassing birding, entomology and botany. Meet 10am at reserve car park SE234365. Leaders: Peter and Barbara Murphy -01132930188.

Botany (mostly Thursdays) Please car-share if possible - ring Bruce, or meet at venue. Bring packed lunch. Boots / wellies usually advisable. More details/directions from Bruce - 467519 or 07397 093284

Apr 24 Ilkley Cemetery and Riverside
Meet 10am Cemetery entrance (street parking), SE 122482
Leader, Sue Stevens

May 1 Aysgarth Area, Wensleydale—Ballowfield and Seta Quarry Reserves
Meet 10.45 am, Ballowfield CP, 1 mile W of Carperby SD987898
Leader: Bruce Brown

May 15 Bolton Abbey Estate—Posforth Gill survey
Meet 10am Cavendish Riverside, CP SE078551
Hopefully, no fee—show Wharfedale Nats programme.
Leader: Mark Jeffrey/Bruce Brown

May 21 WED Harrogate—Birk Crag and Oak Beck
Joint meeting with Harrogate Dist. Nat. Soc.
Meet 10.30am Harlow Carr, CP No.3 SE281542
Leader: Kevin Walker

Jun 5 Dryas survey for YDNP—Cowside Beck, near Arncliffe
Meet 10.30am, cattle grid on Arncliffe to Malham Road SD920712. Note descent/re-ascent to Cowside Beck quite strenuous.
Leader: Gordon Haycock

Jun 12 Yockenthwaite to Hubberholme
Joint meeting with Bradford Botany Group.
Meet 10.30am, Yockenthwaite Bridge, SD904790
Leader: Bruce Brown

Jun 26 Bolton Abbey Churchyard survey
Meet 10.30am, Church CP, down drive near Archway SE073541
Leader: Elaine Adams-Lambert/Bruce Brown

Jul 10 Fewston and Swinsty Reservoir
Meet 10am Swinsty Moor CP (pay) SE187537
Leaders: Sarah Ward and Heather Burrow

Jul 24 Denton—High Denton Farm survey
Meet 10am at farm SE138508.
Leader Nyree Fearnley/Diana Penny

