VOICE OF THE MOORS

NYMA – PROTECTING THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS ASSOCIATION (NYMA)

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NYMA 35 YEARS OF PROTECTION 1985-2020

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Cover: Water Ark Foss © Mel Ullswater

NYMA MEMBERSHIP

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- Individual £18
- Joint £25 (living at same address)

Annual digital membership:
- Individual £10
- Joint £14 (living at the same address)

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

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

Business membership:
- Small businesses (up to 10 employees): £30
- Large businesses (more than 10 employees): £100

For membership queries or if you wish to join our e-newsletter list, please contact Membership Secretary: Carolyn Moore on 01287 669648 or e-mail: membership@nyma.org.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

THE CHAIRMAN'S Foreword in this issue highlights the principal events in NYMA's year. This also forms the main substance of the Trustees' report which we submit annually to the Charities Commission.

INTRODUCTION

Since the 2019 AGM last June our lives have been changed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Normal activities changed in March 2020 with the lockdown, which restricted face-to-face contact in the workplace and most social activities. NYMA's activities too had to be changed to comply with the restrictions. From the end of February all group events for the remainder of the year were cancelled. The MoorsBus, which has been supported for a number of years by NYMA, was also cancelled for the year. Quarterly Council meetings have been held as on-line video meetings. Plans to host the 2020 National Park Societies Annual Conference in October – which were already well advanced - were cancelled; it is hoped the conference can be held in 2021. Other meetings have been held outdoors with social distancing rules observed.

FINANCE

At the end of the financial year in March 2020 our position was sound with an end-of-year balance of £52,543.88. 'Voice of the Moors' production and postage continues to be the main expenditure, totalling £2,968.62 for the year. Expenditure on securing a venue for hosting the 2020 National Park Societies Conference was £1,640.02, this being held over to 2021 following the postponement of the event. A contribution of £2,397.95 agreed for MoorsBus will be carried over to 2021 because of the cancellation of this service. Other items of expenditure were £500 for the Conservation Award, and £338 as an annual levy to the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) on membership levels. Principal sources of income were membership subscriptions (£4,842), donations (£1,216.90) and book sales (£332.90). A deficit of £3,084.45 over the year was declared.

MEETINGS

Over the past year Council meetings were held at Kirkbymoorside Community Library on July 9, October 16 and January 22, with meetings conducted using on-line video conferencing on April 7 and July 7. A round-table meeting with representatives from ICL Boulby Mine concerning a proposed extension of planning permission was held on October 31. NYMA's Chairman and Secretary attended a meeting of National Park Societies Chairs and CEO's in London on October 20, followed by the National Park Societies Annual Conference on 21 October (both meetings hosted by CNP).

In February 2020 several NYMA Council members attended a liaison meeting with the National Park Authority attended by senior staff from the NPA including CEO Andy Wilson. During the year, Colin Speakman and Adrian Leaman represented NYMA at MoorsBus meetings, and Janet Cochrane attended a Heritage Lottery meeting to prepare a funding proposal for a wildflowers project. Unfortunately, HL subsequently withdrew all support for this kind of project due to the urgent pressures of the Covid crisis.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of June 2020 our total membership was 374, an apparent decline of 43 members since the end of June 2019. This is largely due to 'weeding out' of inactive Life Members by the Membership Secretary, Cal Moore, through an 'opt in' letter (many of the non-respondents are thought to be no longer interested or sadly deceased). There has been an encouraging continued uptake of the new 10-year membership category.

VOICE OF THE MOORS

Our quarterly magazine continues to be a vitally important connection to our members. Its high quality has been maintained through the efforts of the Editor, Sharon Artley, working with Pascal Thivillon, at Basement Press, who designs and prepares the magazine for printing. Talented regular contributors include Ian Carstairs, Anne Press, Albert Elliot, Mike Gray, Cal Moore, Colin Speakman, and Alan Staniforth, with occasional features by others. Cal and Dave Moore organise the distribution of the magazine along with Brian and Barbara Spicer. In June, Sharon stepped down as editor after 10 issues: we thank her for her hard work in producing a high-quality magazine with varied content, frequently enhanced by her superb wildlife photographs. 'Voice' is supplemented on an occasional basis with an e-newsletter sent to members who have provided us with an email address.

GUIDED WALKS

The programme of guided walks continued until the beginning of March, with 10 walks organised by Heather Mather and led by Wendy Smith, Jane Ellis, Heather and Colin Mather, Dave and Cal Moore, Kath Mair, and Jenny Shepherd. 'Town & Village Walks' at Robin Hood's Bay, Thornton-le-Dale and Stokesley were organised by Janet Cochrane and led by Alan Staniforth, Liz Whitehouse, and Beryl Turner.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2020

The winner of the 2020 award is an archaeological investigation at Beck Hole into the development and history of the Whitby Company Iron Works (1860s) and the pre-industrial remains of a fulling mill. The work will be carried out by Simon Mayes, a professional archaeologist, on land owned by his brother, Kevin Mayes. It is planned to encourage participation by residents of Beck Hole, who will be offered training in excavation and recording techniques. The value of the award was doubled from £500 to £1,000 for this and future years.

CORBETT'S COPSE (FORMERLY THE PARK WOOD BIODIVERSITY SITE)

This long-term project reached its 10th anniversary this year, and work has continued with the planting of Alder Buckthorn. This shrub was brought to our notice by the Whitby Naturalists' Club in 2019 with their project 'Buckthorn for Brimstones', which was awarded the 2019 Conservation prize. The planting aims to extend the range of the Brimstone butterfly northwards using conservation corridors. Linked to this initiative, several NYMA members also planted Alder Buckthorn in their gardens.

YORKSHIRE PARKS SOCIETIES AND LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Early in March a field trip for students from Leeds Beckett University on a Masters programme in Responsible Tourism Management was organised by NYMA Secretary Dr Janet Cochrane and Course leader Dr Davina Stanford. The field trip included a visit to Kirkbymoorside with talks on MoorsBus, the Ryedale Cycle Network, volunteering in the National Park, and a moorland management tour.

PLANNING MATTERS

The vast Woodsmith Mine project near Whitby saw the collapse of Sirius Minerals Plc and a take-over by major conglomerate Anglo-American in April 2020. Lockdown measures have meant a reduction in activities at both the minehead and the tunnel access site. There have also been changes in the construction plans. It is anticipated that the major work will start on the service shaft by the end of 2020.

Plans were submitted in early 2020 for an extension of operations at the ICL Boulby Mine. NYMA was given the opportunity to discuss the proposals prior to the planning submission at a meeting in October 2019. Present permission expires in 2023. The National Park Planning Authority has asked for changes and modifications which are expected to be submitted later this year.

Discussions have been held with the National Park Authority on the possibility of using the bequest from Prof. Allan Patmore for public benefit at the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre.

PUBLICATIONS

NYMA published two books in 2019: 'Wildflowers of Westerdale' by Carol May Wilson, and 'Wheelsheds of North Yorkshire' by David and Joan Hartley, and is the main distributor of the 'Picture Guide to the Wild Flowers of North East Yorkshire' by the Yorkshire botanist Nan Sykes. The book was reprinted by the charity PLACE, with substantial financial support from NYMA, as a tribute to Nan who sadly died early in the year. Sales of the 'The History Tree' book are continuing.

TOM CHADWICK

Tom Chadwick with the National Park's Michael Graham (Director of Park Services) discuss a wildflower meadow at the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre.

Photo © Janet Cochrane

MUGWORT


Artemesia vulgaris

Photos © Nan Sykes/NYMA

MUGWORT, *Artemesia vulgaris*, a member of the Asteraceae family, has been variously described as a scruffy, dusty roadside weed of summer's end and as a stately assured plant of late summer presence; its likeness has been carved in some churches.

It is a tall perennial plant that appears suddenly during the summer, fast growing to 1½ meters. The leaves are pinnate, deeply indented and pointed, dark green above contrasting with the white downiness below, giving a noticeable silvery appearance as the stems and flower buds develop. The often purplish stems are much branched and support spikes of small yellow/brown flowers which are almost hidden by silvery bracts. These stems dry on the plant until late summer/autumn. The whole plant is mildly aromatic.

It grows in rich soils, in sun or semi-shade on woodland edges, road edges and waysides and waste places often near major roads, and in urban waste sites and farmyard corners; hence its often dusty, bedraggled appearance. It does not grow on the higher acidic moors. It is a thick rooted, vigorous grower with some ability to inhibit nearby plant growth, but being a late flowerer it does unfortunately succumb to the more extreme early verge cutting and, until this unusual year, I felt it was decreasing in range due to undue 'tidiness' – more neglected waste places can be good for some plants.

Its Latin species name 'vulgaris' means 'common', but the genus name Artemesia derives from the Greek Goddess Artemis, the moon goddess who presided over women and birth, hence its names in the past of Mater Herbarum or Mother of Herbs, Motherwort or wombwort.

The Romans carried sprigs of it for protection against sickness and evil and this was later adopted into Christianity where it became one of the herbs of St John, as John the Baptist was reputed to have worn a girdle of it while in the wilderness. It is still picked on St. John's Eve in Ireland (23rd June) for protection and on the Isle of Man it is still worn on 5th July, 'Tynwald Day', when their parliament assembles.

The name 'mugwort' may stem from its ability to deter midges by the burning of the flower stems, or as the dried leaves will keep moths and their maggots from clothes: the old Saxon name for midges was 'muggia' and for moths was 'moughts'. On the other hand it was used as a bitter and preservative in ale before hops were used, hence the 'mug'. The related southernwood, *A. absinthium*, was used disastrously to flavour absinthe!

Country people often used it as a 'substitute' plant. Dried leaves were smoked in rolled-up newspaper or used as a tea, while fresh leaves made an aromatic pot herb or a stuffing for geese.

So mugwort has a very long history of magic and supernatural as well as practical uses, but most important has been its traditional medicinal use throughout Europe, particularly as a 'woman's' herb, the leaves and roots being used in teas, powders, extracts and tinctures. Hormone-like chemicals in it restore and regulate menstrual flow, useful in puberty and the menopause, while it calms the foetus, thus easing childbirth and cleansing the womb. It is a calming, relaxing nervine, being used for fits, epilepsy and hysteria, releasing stress and lifting depression. Placed under the pillow it stops nightmares! As a bitter it stimulates the appetite and helps digestion, easing stomach pains.

It also acts as a vermifuge, effective against internal parasites and worms; the Chinese *A. annua* - Sweet Annie - is used to treat the malarial parasite. It is antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and anti-fungal, being particularly good for skin conditions and infections. The Romans put the leaves in their shoes to guard against weariness and blisters as they marched. Did they suffer from athletes' foot, the fungal infection of the feet? Or was it just a happy coincidence that it always grows at hand by the roadsides?

All in all, not a bad profile and history for a dusty, scruffy wayside 'weed'!

ANNE PRESS

HOUSE MARTINS

Photos © Doug Welch (top) and John Harding (bottom)

WERE YOU lucky enough to have House Martins nesting near you recently? Maybe even on your house? By all accounts this is becoming a less and less common privilege, as their numbers seem to be falling in much of the UK. It's difficult to be sure exactly what is happening to their numbers as their colonial nesting habit, and strong association with human settlements, mean that it is extremely difficult to monitor them accurately. Anecdotal evidence of decline can be unreliable, as the demise of one colony could be balanced by other, maybe smaller ones, being established elsewhere.

As with many sub-Saharan migrants, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) monitoring schemes show an overall decline in House Martins across the UK, and Garden BirdWatch results seem to reflect this pattern too, showing a big fall in the average count per garden, which suggests that the remaining colonies have fewer birds in them.

Long-term data suggest a continued decline, although the degree of uncertainty is wide. The BTO's Breeding Bird Survey indicates that there were significant decreases across southern and midland England and in Northern Ireland, with increases in northern Britain and parts of the southwest. The species is listed as "of concern" following declines in Europe generally, where the breeding population is estimated to be somewhere between 11 million and 23 million pairs. Still very substantial, for now, but within that picture there are many local and regional fluctuations.

Analysis of phenological data shows that their arrival date in the UK has advanced over recent decades by some 16 days (phenology is the study of plant and animal life-cycle events which occur periodically due to factors such as seasonal variations in climate). The effect of this on their breeding productivity is, as yet, unknown. Weather conditions and food resources in Africa or en route during migration probably have more effect on their survival than conditions in the UK during the breeding season. For instance, annual survival rates from sites studied in the UK have been positively correlated with rainfall in West Africa.

House Martins are late breeders, continuing to feed their young into August and September, producing two or three broods in a year. They feed almost entirely on flying insects, usually taken by aerial pursuit, an activity that is disrupted by adverse weather, and can have a significant impact on the parents' ability to provide food. Fortunately, young birds can go into a state of torpor for a few days to help them survive these periods. They are also thought to compete for nest sites with House Sparrows, and a study conducted in Poland attributed recent changes in breeding sites to this pressure.

Their arrival in the UK is typically from mid-March to early June, and they return between late July and late October. If you'd like to follow their movements, try looking at the EuroBirdPortal Viewer: https://eurobirdportal.org/ebp/en/#home/DELURB/p52weeks

House Martins prefer open areas, coastal cliffs, plus cultivated areas around human habitations, including those in towns and cities. Their nests are built by both sexes and are enclosed, with a small entrance hole near the top. They are made of mud pellets, lined with vegetable fibres and feathers and are attached to the outside (and sometimes the inside) of a building, or occasionally a structure such as a bridge. One of the few times you will see House Martins on the ground is when they are picking up mud-balls for nest-making (see photo above).

Under the 1979 Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (also known as the Bern Convention) they have, in some countries, benefited from building regulations designed to provide additional nesting sites. Reductions in air pollution resulting in increased numbers of insects in cities have also led to an increase in population numbers in some places. The UK Clean Air Act (1993) saw increases in House Martin numbers in London, Birmingham and Manchester. In Germany, similar legislation resulted in a 36% increase in numbers in Berlin during the early 80s.

If you are lucky enough to have them nesting on your house, please enjoy them, and try to encourage your neighbours to welcome them too!

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 an organisation no more than 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds call: Mike Gray 07596 366342 or gbwmike@gmail.com.

MANAGING OUR MOORS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AND NATURE

HEATHER MOORLAND is what makes the North York Moors unique and special. The open views across glorious expanses of deep purple heather and ling towards the coast in this part of Yorkshire are justly famous worldwide. The North York Moors National Park contains the largest area of extensive heather moorland - a rare habitat - in England and Wales, covering 44,000 hectares or around a third of the total area of the Park.

Heather both defines our area and creates that special sense of place: the cultural landscape we all love, so vividly described by the great historian of the Moors, author Frank Elgee, who uses its ancient name *Blackamore* – no doubt a reference to its bleak appearance in winter or early spring.

But this is not a natural landscape. It is a carefully cultivated, managed ecosystem, largely developed over the last 200 years and especially since the coming of the railways brought in a certain kind of tourist, tweed-suited landed gentry with their retinues and a passion for a certain exclusive sport – grouse shooting. Careful selective cultivation of the heather, with burning of areas of old heather to allow regeneration of the young shoots beloved of grouse, and removal of competing vegetation such as trees and bracken, have created this distinctive landscape which in some cases (but not all) is a near monoculture.

Many people understandably find grouse shooting abhorrent – the ritualised, seasonal killing of birds for pleasure, a so-called blood sport. But it can also be considered a form of farming. The birds are an annual crop. The rambler or botanist eating their chicken or beef sandwiches may reflect if the short but relatively free life of Red Grouse is better or worse than factory-farmed chicken or intensively reared beef bullocks whose lives are also ended brutally and suddenly to meet our needs.

Grouse shooting and the way heather moorland is managed have in recent years come under considerable scrutiny from environmentalists, especially those concerned with the potential damage done to precious carbon-storing peatland and areas of sphagnum moss by heather burning, drying out areas of moorland to encourage heather growth – a policy subsidised in the past by government grants to increase livestock production – and removal of trees and scrub. This is done in some cases for predator control and also to maintain the heather landscape. Above all is concern about the occasional illegal trapping or poisoning of birds of prey.

Hardly surprising therefore that the Moorland Association, and other shooting and field sport interests that form the Upland Partnership, should consider these threats serious enough to mount a defence of their industry, not just by taking out full page advertisements in local newspapers but also by undertaking a serious academic study to defend their activities,

Two leading academics, Professor James Denny and Tracey Latham-Green of the University of Northampton, were commissioned by the Upland Partnership to produce a study (published August 2020) entitled 'What Impacts does Integrated Moorland Management, including Grouse Shooting, have on Moorland Communities?'

Integrated Moorland Management involves a range of co-existing land uses on moorland – grouse shooting, agriculture including sheep-grazing, water catchment, nature conservation, and - crucially - public access.

The report considers three main issues:

- *What are the key economic and social factors affecting communities in moorland areas where grouse shooting takes place?*
- *How economically and socially resilient are communities in areas managed for grouse shooting, compared to other UK areas?*
- *Can the economic value of any social impacts resulting from grouse moor management be assessed?*

This is a thorough, detailed piece of work, based on not only a wide-ranging (if selective) literature review, but also data from 644 individuals, consisting of 61 interviews and 583 survey respondents.

Hardly surprisingly, the study demonstrates what the sponsors hoped – clear evidence of the very significant contribution grouse shooting makes to local rural economies. Evidence comes from a wide variety of sources – from the permanent employment of gamekeepers and estate workers to the seasonal jobs of gun-loaders, beaters, pickers-up, caterers, plus high-spending shooting clients staying in luxury accommodation creating the well-known 'multiplier effect' as money works its way through the economy to other suppliers of goods and services.

The study does not just deal with economic issues, but also with wider social benefits within rural communities, the networks of support the jobs and visitor spend generate in moorland communities, among whom grouse-shooting is an annual welcome bonus. For many people this is an opportunity to enhance income with part-time work or sales opportunities. It is, after all, an elite form of activity-based tourism and one which delivers a cash crop for local communities far greater than the value of carcasses of birds.

Cleverly, the authors also stress these positive impacts in combating loneliness and isolation within local communities. But they also emphasise the hugely important value of walking the moors in terms of the physical and mental wellbeing and social benefits to the wider community. The opportunity to wander across the moors to experience their uplifting beauty was not, of course, granted by the generosity of landowners, but from hard-won legislation in the form of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, and more recently the CROW Act 2000. These Acts enshrined this public benefit as a legal right, one that the Upland Partnership correctly claim is one of the less tangible but vital reasons to retain grouse moors.

Few walkers or visitors to the National Park would dispute that.

More controversially, the authors claim that Integrated Moorland Management fully deals with the key issues of carbon sequestration, flood management and nature conservation. The truth is more nuanced. Many moorland estate managers in recent years have made impressive changes to traditional practices – in parallel with changing government policy and ecological understanding, as expressed by bodies such as Natural England and the RSPB - in the ways their moors are managed: creating new ponds to encourage water retention and wetland areas, filling in drains to reduce flood risk, encouraging many bird species including spectacular large raptors such as hen harriers, removing bracken (and tick) infestation, carefully controlling burning to reduce the risk of moorland fires. But many experts believe that cutting rather than burning heather – as now being practised on some estates in Yorkshire – is a less risky way of achieving the same results. Whilst the overwhelming majority of gamekeepers behave responsibly towards protected birds of prey such as peregrines and goshawks - which are a threat to grouse chicks - a tiny minority have sullied the reputation of their industry by using illegal and barbaric traps and poisons. Such behaviour is best controlled within the industry itself by a change of culture. Some landowners also oppose the creation of small woodlands because of the risks of harbouring pests such as crows and foxes but also other wildlife. This too needs to change.

The study was undertaken during the Covid-19 epidemic and therefore also deals with issues of resilience. Will tourism suffer because of the virus? The authors suggest that because grouse moorland economies are more broadly based, they may be more robust. But if fewer wealthy Americans and mainland Europeans come to the UK because of travel restrictions, grouse shooting might be more, not less, at risk at a time when low-value tourism - day trips, camping and caravanning - booms. Nature tourism – people seeking solace in wildlife and the natural world - could flourish. According to a Scottish Natural Heritage study, in 2010 nature tourism was worth £1.4 billion and supported 29,000 rural jobs.[1]

In terms of the North York Moors, the reality is that grouse shooting supports and underpins one of the most iconic landscapes in the British Isles. If the industry was to decline for whatever reasons, it is unlikely the land would be allowed to revert to scrubland or semi-natural wilderness. To retain it in its current form would be hugely expensive and it would be difficult to justify using public expenditure for it. In reality, it would probably be used for other economic purposes. As happened in Exmoor in the 1960s, moorland could be ploughed and replaced with featureless upland grassland for ranch-style farming or planted with cash-crop quick-growing conifers for biofuel.

So even if you don't approve of shooting, if you value the freedom to stride across the wonderful expanse of heather moorland above the deep green valleys that so define the North York Moors, it's a trade-off worth making. Let us support landowners and gamekeepers who also respect and value the natural diversity our heather moors contain, and the rural communities they support, but retain a careful eye to ensure they keep to their word.

COLIN SPEAKMAN

1 Eberly M. 2010 Assessing the Economics of Nature-based Tourism in Scotland (SNH)

George Thompson, Head Keeper of the Spaunton Estate, explains some points of moorland management to visitors

Photo © Janet Cochrane

Red Grouse

Photo © Sharon Artley

THE HEATHER BEETLE – AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Photo © Phill Luckhurst

THE NORTH YORK MOORS are famous for their vast swathes of lilac blossoming heather sweeping from horizon to horizon. However, many local residents and regular visitors will be well aware that the mauve haze is rarely unbroken, and blotches of gingery heather often mar the purple hillside. These tan-coloured patches of moorland can appear in different areas each year, and often once they have passed, the heather becomes bare, brittle and grey – dead branches swaying stiffly in the breeze.

The culprit for this transformation is a small native beetle, the Heather Beetle (*Lochmaea suturalis)*. Unassuming in appearance, at only 6mm long with a bronze tinge to their dark brown wing-cases, these insects have lived and evolved alongside heather, their sole food source, for millennia. Whilst ling heather *(Calluna vulgaris)* - the dominant heather species of the North York Moors - makes up its preferred diet, the beetle can also feed on ericaceous heaths such as bell heather and cross-leaved heath which are both also common across the moorland area.

With each beetle only surviving for a year, adults hibernate over winter by burrowing into the soil before emerging in the spring and beginning to graze. In April or May, once daily temperatures are warm enough, the adult beetles take to the wing and mate before dispersing where the wind takes them. This spring, many people noticed piles and piles of dead Heather Beetles washed up along the Yorkshire coast, presumably the result of vast swarms blown out over the sea by strong westerly winds. Whilst this led to hopes that with an apparently large proportion of the breeding population being wiped out there would be less of an impact on the moorland this year, this sadly does not seem to be the case.

Once the females reach a suitable patch of heather, they lose their wing muscles as they divert energy to developing and laying their eggs in damp moss or leaf litter beneath the plants. The larvae that emerge then feast on the heather leaves, growing rapidly before pupating to become an adult beetle in mid-August. They then continue to feed until temperatures drop in the autumn and the cycle begins again.

The singed appearance of beetle-grazed heather is caused by the rasping jaws of the beetle and its larvae that scrape away the protective coating that helps the leaves retain water, exposing the plant to dehydration and leading it to essentially 'cut off' the affected leaves by halting the flow of water and nutrients in order to prevent further loss. Whilst in many years, the grazing pressure of the Heather Beetle may make no more mark than the odd gingery clump here or there, when conditions align the population can explode - resulting in vast swathes of brown foliage across the landscape.

We don't currently understand what causes Heather Beetle numbers to explode in some years, but factors could include weather conditions, predators and management techniques affecting the growth or absence of the heather it depends on. Unfortunately, at present much of the available literature on the insect and its impacts is scientifically inconclusive, with insufficient robust and peer-reviewed research to explain how its population or effects can be best managed.

Historically, one advocated method of managing Heather Beetle involved burning off affected plants as soon as possible after the infestation was noted, with the intention of wiping out the beetles in that area and to encourage new growth from the affected plants and the existing seed bed. However, recent reviews of the literature have been unable to find any concrete evidence that this technique is effective, with anecdotal reports of the beetles and larvae dropping off plants and burrowing into the soil in the presence of fire and thus escaping the blaze. A recent study by the Heather Trust in the Peak District concluded that there was no difference in heather regeneration from plots treated with the three different management approaches of cutting, burning or control (i.e. 'do nothing'). This suggests that

Damaged heather in Bransdale showing characteristic bronze tinge

Photo © Eric Wesson

Piles of Heather beetles in Cayton Bay, April 2020

Photo © Joan Childs

heather beds affected by the beetles are as likely to recover in the absence of specific active management as with it.

As it is an indigenous native species, several predators and parasites have evolved alongside the Heather Beetle which may provide population control in the correct circumstances. The Hieroglyphic Ladybird (*Coccinella hieroglyphica)*, the Heather Shieldbug (*Rhacognathus punctatus)*, and Black Grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix)* are all known predators, whilst parasitoids such as the fly *Medina collaris* and wasp *Asecodes mento* lay their eggs in Heather Beetle adults and larvae respectively, which then get consumed by the parasitoids' offspring as they develop. Whilst in theory it would be logical that, following an outbreak of a prey species, the number of predators or parasitoids would rise to reduce or prevent future infestations in following years, other factors may be in play which suppress increases of these predators. The significant impacts of Heather Beetle observed annually in the Moors (and other sites across the country) between 2018 and 2020 seem to indicate that this natural control process may not be currently effective at suppressing the beetle population; further research into the ecology of these predators and parasitoids would be hugely valuable.

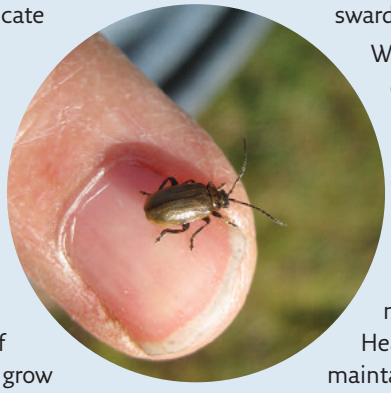


Photo © Stephen Lewis

Some reliable evidence of factors affecting beetle ecology is available, often from laboratory-based experiments where variables can be more easily controlled. These have found that where heather is exposed to higher levels of nutrients, particularly nitrogen, Heather Beetles grow more quickly and have more offspring. This may indicate that emissions of nitrous compounds such as ammonia from the area around the North York Moors may have a role to play in the impact of the beetle, as well as the wider ecological implications of nitrogen and acid deposition on an already vulnerable habitat. Similarly, warmer temperatures showed an increase in the number of offspring produced and increased grazing damage, although larval growth was negatively affected by drought. This indicates that whilst the impact of climate change is likely to be complex, warmer but wetter spring conditions could lead to significant population increases.

Beyond the immediate impact of Heather Beetle on our celebrated purple landscape, more frequent outbreaks of large numbers of the beetle have the potential to influence the future ecology of the moorland habitat. Serious infestations can lead to a local depletion in summer flowers, impacting bumblebees, hoverflies, moths and other native pollinators that depend on the annual nectar bonanza - as well as bee-keepers who bring hives on to the moorland to make the distinctive heather honey. Other grazers including sheep and Red Grouse may have less food available and lose condition, with moorland owners having to reduce or cancel shoots during bad years, such as 2020. According to George Winn-Darley, owner of Spaunton Moor, "the situation is dramatic and there is very little grouse shooting taking place this year. Many estates will not do any shooting at all, which is probably a first since the Second World War."

Heather Beetle has also been blamed as a potential cause of the transition of heather-dominated moorland towards a grassier sward, as opportunistic species take advantage of open spaces to become established in the aftermath of an outbreak. Whilst this may lead to a more ecologically diverse habitat, depending on the invading species, such a transition will inevitably also impact on species that have adapted to the more homogenous swards of ling heather prevalent over recent decades.

With climate change and possible changes in other factors potentially leading to more frequent and larger infestations of Heather Beetle, understanding the underlying causes, controls and effects of outbreaks will be vital to anticipating how our moorland habitats may change in the future. We must also learn what changes in management practice may be needed to manage the threat of Heather Beetle and enable moorlands to be maintained in the long term in the North York Moors and across upland Britain, for the benefit of the species and communities that depend on it. Without such information, it appears possible that the vast swathes of purple blooms, bringing with it the distinctive heady scent of moorland summers that overwhelms the senses, may become simply a memory of bygone days.

ELSPETH INGLEBY
ECOLOGIST FOR THE NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY.

Author's note: Information for this article is largely drawn from two reviews of available literature published in 2015, commissioned by Natural England and the Heather Trust, into the Ecology of the Heather Beetle and Management Options for Control. These reviews along with further information and details of recent studies mentioned in this article are available from the Heather Trust website: www.heathertrust.co.uk/heather-beetle.

TOURISM AND COVID IN THE NORTH YORK MOORS

BACK IN 2001, when the Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic struck Britain's livestock and people were forbidden to visit the countryside, it was recognised that tourism was a more significant source of income in upland areas than farming itself. The outcome was to push rural tourism higher up the agenda of planners and policymakers. The North York Moors was no exception, and nowadays the importance of the visitor economy in the National Park is fully recognised. This means that the coronavirus pandemic and its associated government messages - from 'Stay at Home' to 'Eat Out to Help Out' - was always going to have a significant impact on tourism businesses in our area and on the lives of the people who run them.

This article explores the responses of accommodation business owners in the National Park to the pandemic from lockdown in March to re-opening over the summer.

Photo © Rawcliffe House Farm

Rawcliffe House Farm holiday cottages

TOURISM IN THE NORTH YORK MOORS PRE-COVID

The most recent pre-Covid survey (2018) shows that in normal years there are over 8 million individual visits to the Moors, with around 20 per cent from people who stay at least one night. The remainder are day visitors. They spend almost £700 million per year and support the equivalent of just over 11,000 full-time jobs - almost a quarter of jobs in the National Park. There are over 1,500 accommodation enterprises providing around 50,000 bed spaces in total, from campsites and caravan parks to B&Bs offering additional experiences such as photography or guiding, farms where outbuildings have been converted to self-catering cottages, and small hotels. The majority are micro-enterprises, employing fewer than 10 people.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN COVID STRUCK?

As we know, we were all instructed to 'stay at home to save lives' from mid-March. All tourism businesses had to close, and to reinforce the message the National Park Authority (NPA) closed carparks and toilets. This could hardly have struck at a worse moment: tourism in the Moors is a cyclical industry because of its dependence on nature and the outdoors, with surveys confirming that the chief 'pull' factors are the unspoiled scenery, the peace and tranquillity, and getting close to nature. Businesses gearing up to start the spring season suddenly had to reverse their plans.

It was now that support from the NPA and associates came into its own. In particular, The Tourism Network - run by marketing expert Susan Briggs - has furnished an invaluable (and free) stream of advice. Business owners were hugely appreciative of Susan's empathetic and practical messages, such as "we can turn anxiety into action, and use downtime to make every aspect of marketing much stronger" (23 March), and "some people think there's no point marketing their business right now. I disagree. Surely we all want a virtual queue of people ready to visit when the time is right?" (29 April).

Through social media, online forums and seminars, there have been opportunities for entrepreneurs to share information and concerns, analyse their business strategy and target markets, and develop their 'recovery' messages to prepare for when their guests could return. Business owners were urged to focus on themes such as reassurance, anticipation, and 'good' stories, and to bring out their individual personality rather than hiding shyly behind an anonymous website. Many accommodation owners have a strong relationship with their customers, and found that this paid off. For instance, Jackie Berry, owner of a high-end self-catering property at Town End Farm, in Appleton-le-Moors, said in late May: "We took the decision pre lockdown to move bookings and refund balances for those who wanted to cancel. We've been blown away by people's responses, with virtually every guest choosing to move their booking and rebook with us."

The NPA played its part too, and had to steer a difficult course between several conflicting aims. While following evolving government advice and regulations, they had to support local business owners, knowing that for many tourism is a vital source of income, while protecting and reassuring local residents worried about the additional strain put on services by visitors and second home owners, and in some cases because public rights-of-way pass through farms and close to homes. They had to send out messages first asking the public to stay away, and then encouraging visitors to return, both to foster their physical and emotional well-being and to support businesses. When the public did return, the NPA had to attempt to deter antisocial behaviour such as littering, overcrowding, and irresponsible use of barbecues.

As with the marketing support, the NPA's efforts were positively received by the local business community. After it issued a press release urging the public to 'Stay apart. Act responsibly. Save lives' the owner of Carlton Lodge B&B in Helmsley remarked that "it gives a sensitive image (mentioning toilets) and talks to people in a positive way. Thankfully it doesn't portray a 'Don't come because we are closed and don't want outsiders' image" (Lisa Spratling, 12 May). On the practical side, business owners found the cleaning and risk assessment guidelines provided by

the Professional Association of Self-Caterers (PASC) especially helpful.

There was frustration, however, because although hospitality businesses couldn't open, the public took advantage of new freedoms to move around and gather in small groups, visiting National Parks, beaches and other beauty spots. Many of the 'new' visitors appeared unfamiliar with the Countryside Code, resulting in anger from residents at gates left open, crops trampled, and extensive littering. The National Park responded by increasing the number of volunteer rangers at popular spots in order to educate visitors.

As speculation grew as to when hospitality businesses would be permitted to reopen, discussion turned to the practicalities of keeping guests and staff safe while providing visitors with an enjoyable experience. Confusion, uncertainty and anxiety prevailed. When would businesses be allowed to open? Could they comply with changing regulations to keep the public safe? Would the public want to return at all?

A BUSY SUMMER

The last question was answered resoundingly as soon as it was announced that hospitality businesses could reopen on July 4. Business owners reported heavy demand - a huge relief after the preceding lean months. They also found that few potential visitors were enquiring about cleaning protocols, while many asked about a refund policy in the event of a further change in government rules. Nevertheless, responsible owners were diligent at ensuring high standards. The owner of Red House Farm in Glaisdale said "we've been working flat out making things as safe as possible - all government and PASC guidelines as a basis for our own protocols. It means I can sleep at night, knowing we are doing as much as we can to keep ourselves and others safe" (Sandra Spashett, 4 August). There were efforts to manage guests' expectations: "we've found it important to send a pre-stay email about the additional checks, asking our guests to be patient. It helps to reassure them and makes them feel more relaxed" (Lisa Spratling, 3 September).

To comply with the regulations and ensure customer safety – and their own – businesses have introduced earlier checkout and later check-in times to allow for thorough cleaning, while many B&Bs do not service rooms during their customers' stay and

Enjoying the view from the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre

Photo © Janet Cochrane

Riding near Newgate Bank

Photo © Janet Cochrane

provide staggered breakfast times so guests can be safely distanced. Larger properties have suffered because of the restrictions on members of different households meeting indoors. At Town End Farm, Ian and Jackie Berry's converted barn sleeps 14 and is popular with groups of family and friends meeting for special events. Now, "we are having to ask how many households are planning to come, and we have to turn people away if there are more than two" (Ian Berry, 3 September).

Some people have not reopened their businesses, either because they feel unable to comply with the new regulations or because they are elderly or vulnerable. Most 'lifestyle entrepreneurs' typical of the small-scale accommodation sector have vast enthusiasm for their area and their business, and work extremely hard for relatively low financial return, but the Covid crisis may be a catalyst to allow the survival of stronger businesses whose owners have a more professional skill-set and are able to engage with new markets and changing leisure trends, while those teetering on the edge or already looking to retire may never reopen.

Despite the challenges, business owners report a few positives. Some have taken the opportunity to carry out renovations, improve their local networks, and get to know the area better so that when customers return, they can make knowledgeable recommendations. It appears that after the months of lockdown and restricted travel, people are keen to escape and be surrounded by nature. There is also optimism that people who have rediscovered holidays in Britain may be so impressed by the quality of the offer that they will return. The repeat market is in any case significant for successful businesses: "we've been amazed at people's attitude in wanting to support us" (Ian Berry, 3 September).

All in all, it is possible that tourism businesses in the North York Moors may emerge from the Covid crisis with more resilience and better able to take advantage of future opportunities.

JANET COCHRANE

Author's note: sources of information were the North York Moors NPA website, TourismKnowhow.com, and interviews with accommodation owners. All quotes used with permission.

THE LOST MAP OF RYEDALE

ESTRA WALKER was a York artist well known for her printed pictorial maps. Some readers may remember her map of Historic York or her 1950's poster of Yorkshire Railways promoting rail travel in the County. But Estra's first map, painted in the 1930's, was shown in public only once and has never been published or photographed - until now.

As a child I used to play a game on this map with my sister. "I spy three monks"; Frances challenged me to locate them, but it was too easy. I knew exactly where to find them, pictured next to Byland Abbey. This was one of about a hundred pictures of people and buildings drawn on the map, all placed against the North Yorkshire landscape.

Now it was my turn. How to choose a subject that my sister couldn't discover? Eventually I settled for my favourite: "I spy the Hood Stone" which, the map told us, "doth roll to Osgodby Hall each day for dinner and doth then roll back".

Estra painted the map in 1935 for her friends, Blanche and Charlie Needham, who met at an evening class at York Art School taught by Charlie, a young architect. The three shared a deep love of the English countryside as well as a fondness for music, crafts and the graphic arts. Estra had trained as a pianist but found it too stressful to perform in public so had taken up art. Charles recognised Estra's artistic talent and encouraged her to develop it, and he fell in love with Blanche, later marrying her and settling in York.

Blanche was a countrywoman at heart and Charlie, steeped in the Arts and Crafts tradition, was drawn to the pre-industrial world which, in the 1930's, could still be found in the English countryside. So they built a cottage in the local vernacular style at Oldstead under the North York Moors, and spent their summer days there learning to understand the local landscape and its history. Their aim was to live as simple a life as possible, with nature and neighbouring farms providing most of their food and fuel. Blanche and Charlie were religious by nature and found honesty and goodness in their surroundings, qualities which they sought to reflect in their lives.

Blanche wanted to document all this in the form of a picture-map, so she spent the summer of 1935 driving round the area with Estra making thumbnail sketches of villages and events to be re-drawn later in their landscape setting. Drawings of our family were included. My father, Blanche's brother, was depicted in his Royal Navy uniform, but back-dated to the style of Nelson's navy, peering through a telescope and attended by a cabin boy hauling a sea-chest. Blanche and Charlie themselves were shown walking up to the moors carrying a picnic hamper.

The finished map was much admired, and Blanche and Charlie encouraged Estra to work on her map of Historic York to be printed and sold commercially. The York map was the first of a series of publications which established Estra as a successful professional artist.

On retiring, Estra moved to a small house which Charlie designed for her near York and, with time, Blanche and Charlie's cottage passed to Frances and myself. The cottage was eventually sold, but we could not bear to part with the map which so well depicted the summer landscapes of our childhood.

Now, in the very different context of the digital age, I am looking at a blog by the antiquarian map expert, Rod Barron, who deals in Estra's published work. He had unearthed a review of the 1935 Exhibition of York Arts Society which described 'one of the

Photos © Frances Fletcher

most striking pieces on display ... a hand-painted pictorial map of Ryedale, with spirited little sketches in the manner of four hundred years ago'. The Barron blog goes on: 'the present whereabouts of the map is sadly unknown, assuming that it survived the ravages of the past eighty years'. I glance up at the wall beside me and am in no doubt that I am looking at this 'lost map', the same one which I use to play I-spy with my grandchildren today.

Estra's map perfectly captured the back-to-nature existence which Blanche and Charlie and, later, my own family found in that lovely corner of rural Yorkshire. She expressed it clearly in framing the map with Shakespeare's words from 'As you Like It':

And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones and good in everything.

And yes - Frances did manage to find the Hood Stone on the map. Later, I climbed Hood Hill to look for the real stone but it was nowhere to be seen; I was told that an aeroplane had crashed and shattered it into thousands of pieces, but I prefer to believe what it said on the map, that it had just rolled down to Osgodby Hall and was enjoying a good dinner.

JOHN BRISBY

Photo © Mike Kipling

BUILT HERITAGE

RECORDING TRADITIONAL SIGNPOSTS

THE TRADITIONAL black and white 'finger post' signposts in the North York Moors have become a cherished part of our landscape. In order to maintain and conserve these features for future generations to enjoy, building conservation officers at the National Park Authority are asking parishes and residents to let them know about signs so that they can be mapped and recorded on the Authority's Geographic Information System (GIS) system. Along with recording, officers are hoping to be able to refurbish some of the signs which are in most need of restoration – this will ensure the longevity of these iconic features.

There is a vast array of different signs, some of which make reference to the old North Riding District, whilst others warn of steep inclines, Roman roads or even footpaths. There is also a variety of designs and styles that officers are eager to conserve.

This project is looking to continue previous work carried out by the Authority and the LEADER Programme. There is some funding available to restore some of the signs in most need of help.

If you would like to make officers aware of signs that you know of, please email building@northyorkmoors.org.uk along with a photo and an indication of its location.

CLAIR SHIELDS
PLANNING POLICY OFFICER, NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

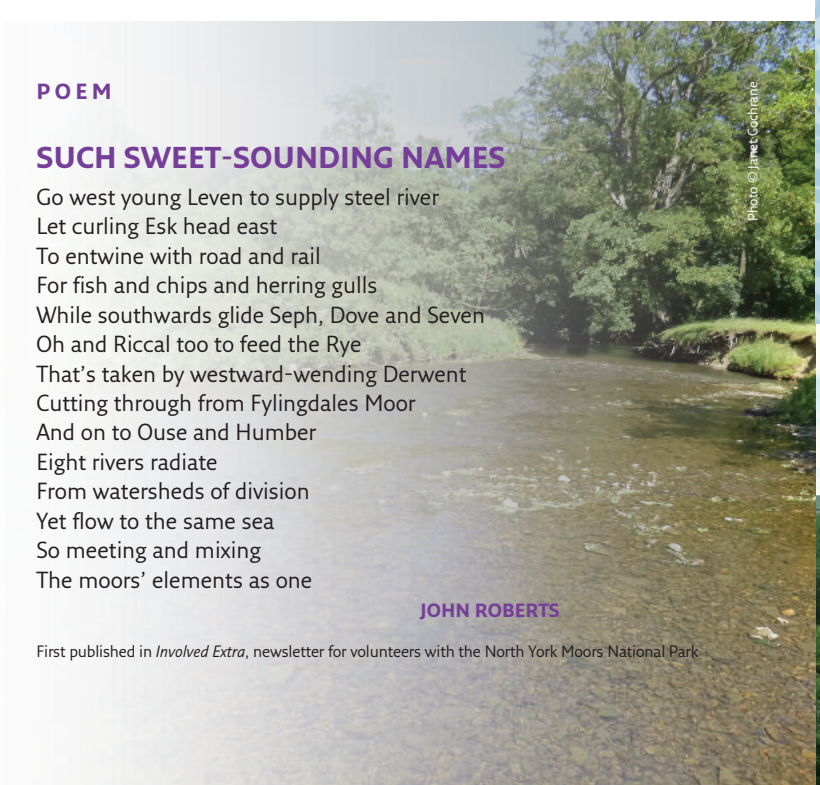


Photo © Janet Cochrane

POEM

SUCH SWEET-SOUNDING NAMES

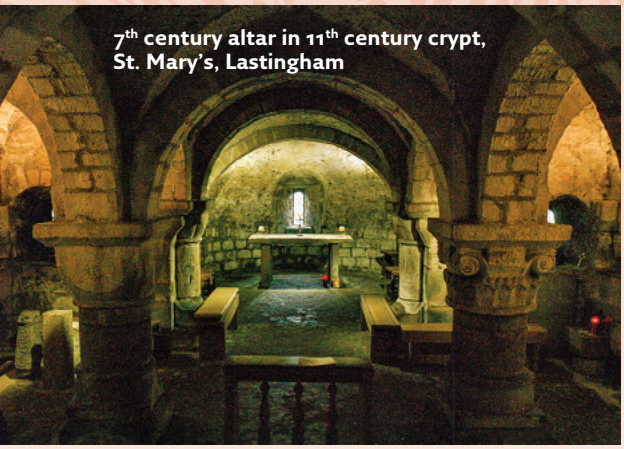
Go west young Leven to supply steel river
Let curling Esk head east
To entwine with road and rail
For fish and chips and herring gulls
While southwards glide Seph, Dove and Seven
Oh and Riccal too to feed the Rye
That's taken by westward-wending Derwent
Cutting through from Fylingdales Moor
And on to Ouse and Humber
Eight rivers radiate
From watersheds of division
Yet flow to the same sea
So meeting and mixing
The moors' elements as one

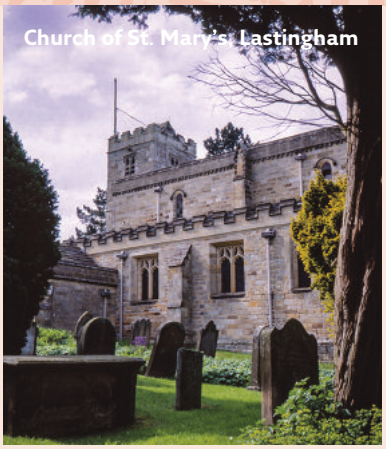
JOHN ROBERTS

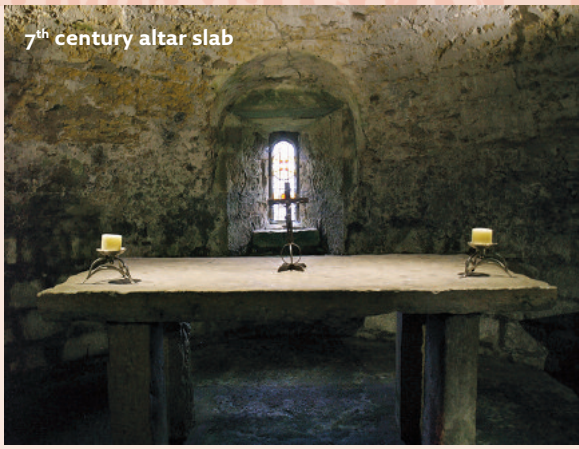
First published in *Involved Extra*, newsletter for volunteers with the North York Moors National Park

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

MAGICAL MOORS MOMENTS NUMBER 3


7th century altar in 11th century crypt, St. Mary's, Lastingham


Church of St. Mary's, Lastingham


7th century altar slab

Photos ©Ian Carstairs

HAVE YOU ever had that strange feeling that time can stand still? Or maybe that time is frozen in a constant state of 'now', compressed from over the years into the things you see around you?

On a glorious late autumn day, I walked down the hill into Lastingham. Above the village, weak sunlight caught a haze of smoke from wood-fires drifting over the rooftops.

I adore the smell of wood-smoke; almost more that than anything else, it seems so indelibly connected with the spirit of the countryside. It is one of the three things which I once proclaimed I could not live without: the other two being red wine and chocolate! But that's by the way ... and in any event I've now gone off the wine, though I can't say the same for chocolate.

On the corner, where the road from Hutton-le-Hole reaches the village, stands St Mary's Parish Church. From the outside St Mary's looks much the same as many other village churches. But inside, as all who love this corner of the Moors know, is something else altogether. Here more than a thousand years of history lie embraced, both in and under the church's unusual structure.

In the churchyard we gain a glimpse of a traditional practice, where the graveyard is fenced such that sheep may be run through to manage the vegetation.

Under the porch it's reassuring to see bat droppings and then there's the heavy ancient door. Turning the handle, I always feel a rising compulsion to open it as quietly as possible, not just to make sure anyone already inside is not disturbed but in an instinctive respect for the echoes of history that lie within the walls.

An immaculate stone vaulted ceiling, the work of Victorian architect J. L. Pearson - renowned for the building of Truro Cathedral - leads the eye down to the columns. A number, looking wholly out of proportion for the job of holding up a relatively small church, give a clue to the building's earlier history.

These massive shapes tell of long-abandoned plans to build a large monastic church soon after the Norman Conquest. No-one knows for sure what prompted the builders only to partially complete their monastery before moving on to York to establish St Mary's Abbey, the ruins of which now stand in the City's Museum Gardens. A possible reason could have been the problems caused by outlaws harassing the monks in this remote location.

Conveniently, the partially completed buildings became embodied in the church we see today. But the story goes deeper still into time, as the remains of the 11th century structure lie themselves on the site of an earlier Celtic monastery founded by St Cedd in the mid-7th century. And this brings me to my memorable moment.

Towards the western end of the nave, a stone stairway leads down under the church. Another heavy door lies at its foot. On my first visit I opened it gingerly, not knowing what to expect.

Beyond the door only the faintest light spilled into the dark space, in the days when you could visit the crypt without the electric light being on.

With the door closed, a small cross stood in sharp focus on the ancient stone altar slab, silhouetted by the light from the tiny window immediately behind it. It struck an immensely powerful image, and as my eyes adjusted to the low light the stout Norman columns of the ancient crypt added their silent presence to what I can only describe as the smell of time in this unaltered place.

The darkened space brought a new meaning to the word contemplation, as if I had flown across the centuries. Then, from above, a bell chimed – a distant muffled sound, one which would have sounded exactly the same to generations of people who would similarly have stood here over the years. Nothing else touched the stillness of this 'hairs-standing-up on-the-back-of your-neck' moment, free from the complications of the world in which we live.

I have never forgotten the experience and relive the memory time and again. So much so that whenever I bring visitors to the Moors I always take them to St Mary's and lead them carefully, eyes closed, down into the crypt, timing the visit for when the clock strikes the hour. Without exception, my guests never fail to be deeply and thoughtfully touched by their own moment of calm in this magical place, when they open their eyes and the bell rings.

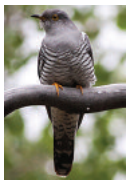
IAN CARSTAIRS

SKYLARKS

Now that it is Autumn you are probably feeling a little colder and - like this waxwing in 6-year-old Pippa's picture - you might feel like packing a suitcase and flying off somewhere warm on holiday. Waxwings start arriving on the East coast of the UK in October and have travelled from Scandinavian countries such as Norway and Sweden.

Why do you think birds migrate from colder countries like those above? In 'Skylarks' in the past we have learnt about plants and animals needing food and warmth to survive and grow, so it is exactly the same for migrating birds, as you have probably said. This redwing, like the waxwing, enjoys our UK berries.

Can you identify some of the birds below who have now flown south from the UK to warmer areas such as Southern Europe and Africa?

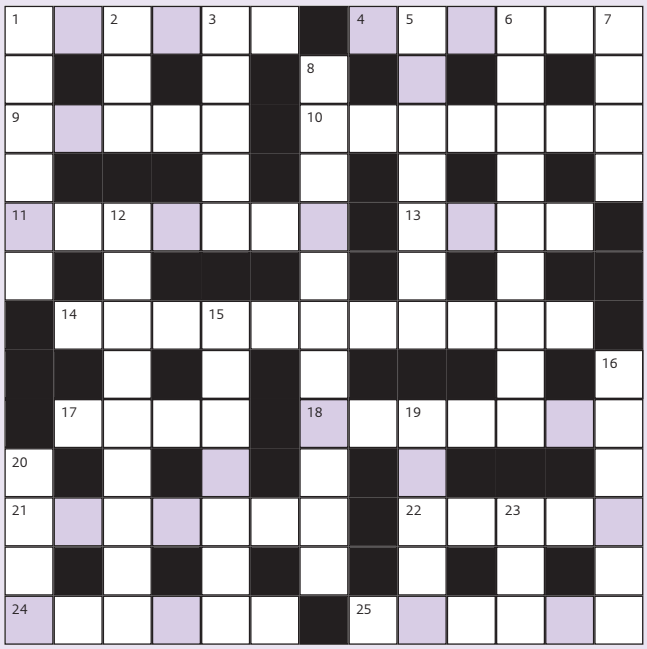


Activity: Make a note of the date when migrating birds arrive and leave in your area and see if it is the same or different next year.

Thank you to Pippa for her picture. Please keep sending us your pictures and news to editor@nyma.org.uk

Waxwing - Pippa Ellen Moore
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Common_cuckoo_(Cuculus_canorus).jpg
https://pixabay.com/photos/swallow-flying-swallow-in-flight-5228995/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/rn-a-r-t-n/21999545 (redwing)
https://www.flickr.com/photos/dkeats/32788379458 (willow warbler)

CROSSWORD 90 by AMANUENSIS



Takes the letters from the shaded in squares in the grid and rearrange in the boxes to solve the anagram.
CLUE: A beautiful house and garden set in a picturesque idyllic valley (16, 5)

ACROSS

1 & 4 Silent hornet goes crazy in lovely local village (6,6)
9 & 17 Choice of mail one hears for warding off evil spirits (5, 4)
10 Handy for removing lines (7)
11 Observe change to one side of coin (7)
13 Style and vigour in meandering lane (4)
14 Are these tradesmen always up against the wall? (11)
17 See 9 across
18 Deny profit comes first (7)
21 Controllers of the written articles (7)
22 Simple country person is burden to fifty (5)
24 Without it life would be impossible (6)
25 A roof can be criticized harshly (6)

DOWN

1 He had a fruitful idea while sitting under a tree (6)
2 Initially explosive (1, 1, 1)
3 Three going crazy for the blue skies above (6)
5 Found in family albums, that's for sure! (7)
6 You're never lost for words with this (8)
7 Landing place for fliers? (4)
8 Tree researcher? (11)
12 Bores have it in abundance (9)
15 Terminally negative (7)
16 Went round and round on two wheels (6)
19 Tidy Lloyds Bank has rural poem inside? (5)
20 Italian fiddler on the roof? (4)
23 Little Christopher has the gear (3)

Answers on back cover

NYMA NEWS

A SURPRISING amount has happened in the last few weeks, considering the restrictions on our activities. The President's Award is normally announced at our AGM, but this year we considered the entries and made the award by phone and email. In August Tom Chadwick and Janet Cochrane paid a visit to the site of the winning entry, the Whitby Company Ironworks at Beck Hole, and met archaeologist Simon Mayes and his brother Kevin Mayes, who owns the land where the site is located, along with Land of Iron Programme Manager Tom Mutton and local historian Tammy Naylor. We were pleased to catalyse a meeting between them and look forward to hearing more about the excavations as they progress.

Photos © Janet Cochrane

Sales of Nan Sykes' re-printed "Guide to the Wild Flowers of North East Yorkshire"- which we gave financial support for - have been excellent. Distribution through bookshops has been limited because of the Covid situation, but Janet has been kept busy sending out copies to individuals, to the National Park Authority, and more recently to bookshops which have been able to reopen. We are particularly grateful to Gill Smith, of the Ryedale Naturalists' Society, for coordinating sales to their members.

In order to respect the terms of our Constitution and the requirements of the Charities Commission, our AGM this year was held by video conferencing, with the participation of several NYMA members as well as members of Council.

And finally, Janet Cochrane has stepped into Sharon Artley's shoes to edit 'Voice of the Moors', at least for the time being. Having edited 'The History Tree' in 2018 and done a lot of travel and academic writing in the past, as well as working as a BBC producer, she is relishing the opportunity to learn more about the Moors and work with a diverse range of contributors.

NYMA WALKS

WE ARE looking forward to re-starting our monthly walks, following guidelines produced by the Ramblers Association. We hope that we shall be able to run the walks in October and November, albeit with some modifications. Please note that you MUST contact the leaders in advance so they know you are interested, and they will have the latest advice. Our thanks to Heather Mather for putting this programme together. There will be no walk in December and, unfortunately, we shall not be able to hold our usual Christmas gathering.

Saturday 3 October
NORTH INGS MOOR, 5 MILES
Meet 10.30 just west (the Kildale side) of Commondale at the clump of trees, grid ref. NZ 657105. Starting off up the road to Wayworth Farm, we head north-west across the moor, across the top of North Ings Slack, and south-east back to our starting place. Only 150m of ascent so a gentle easing back to action after our long break.
Please let Wendy Smith know you are coming on wpsmith7a@gmail.com or 01642 711980

Saturday 7 November
LOOSE HOWE, ROSEDALE, 4.5 MILES
Meet 10am at parking area 1.5 miles east of Rosedale Head, by the junction of Knott Road with Rosedale Road (site of the Millennium Stone), grid ref. NZ 697012.
The walk is mainly on the moor top. North and then east over Glaisdale Moor, south-east towards Rosedale via Bronze Age round barrow, followed by a steep drop of 130m into Rosedale to the old railway line, and a similar climb back to the moor top before heading north back to the start. (The steep dip can be bypassed by following a level road back to the start.)
Please contact Dave & Cal Moore on 01287 669648 or membership@nyma.org.uk

STAY COVID SAFE!

- Before the walk, check for Covid-19 symptoms - do not attend If you have any.
- Let the Walk Leader know you are coming and give them your contact details.
- Please follow current government guidelines on car sharing and social distancing.
- You may want to bring your own hand sanitiser, face covering and basic first aid kit as well as food and drink.
- During the walk, touch stiles and gates as little as possible, and use hand sanitiser afterwards especially if you're in a busy area.
- After the walk, if you develop symptoms you should apply for a Covid-19 test and support NHS contact tracing if requested.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (see page 15)

Across
1 & 4 Nether Silton, 9 & 17 Witch post, 10 erasers, 11 obverse, 13 elan, 14 bricklayers, 17 see 9 across, 18 gainsay, 21 editors, 22 yokel, 24 oxygen, 25 slated

Down
1 Newton (Sir Isaac), 2 TNT, 3 ether, 5 imagery, 6 Thesaurus, 7 nest, 8 genealogist, 12 verbosity, 15 cathode, 16 cycled, 19 idyll, 20 Nero, 23 kit

Anagram
SLEIGHTHOLMEDALE
LODGE