VOICE OF THE MOORS

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

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BOOKINGS STILL OPEN FOR NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES CONFERENCE, SCARBOROUGH, 12-14 OCTOBER 2021

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Cover: Admiral's Clump © Mel Ullswater.
Legend has it that this clump of trees just north of Guisborough was used in the days of sailing ships as a navigational reference to enter the mouth of the River Tees.

NYMA MEMBERSHIP

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- Joint £25 (living at same address)

Annual digital membership:
- Individual £10
- Joint £14 (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 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

Voice of the Moors Editor
Janet Cochrane
Please email articles/letters/photos to:
editor@nyma.org.uk – 07570 112010

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES CONFERENCES

The National Park Societies (NPS) such as NYMA are 'friends' associations for the national parks, and an annual conference is hosted in turn by each of the societies in England and Wales. The conferences are a useful forum to enrich discussion on matters which affect all protected landscapes, and an opportunity to meet up with delegates from around the country to share experience and expertise.

The last full conference was hosted in 2018 by the Dartmoor Preservation Association in the heart of the Dartmoor National Park. In 2019 there was a change in the normal pattern when the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) held a one-day conference in Central London, which was when we announced that NYMA would host the next conference.

The last time NYMA hosted an NPS conference was in October 2003. The conference themes were Social Inclusion, and Sustainable Tourism: issues still highly relevant today. One of the main strands emerging from both themes was the importance of public transport. "Sustainable Visitors in the North York Moors" was presented by Bill Breakell, then Tourism and Transport Officer at the National Park. At that time the Moorsbus service was operating within the National Park in an attempt to get people to leave their cars once they arrived. Links to bus services from surrounding conurbations were established as well as graduated car parking charges. Who could have imagined that just a few years later the Moorsbus would be axed following the government's austerity policy, which imposed such drastic cuts on public service funding?

On the subject of Social Inclusion, Professor Ash Amin - then Head of Geography at Durham University - spoke on "Ethnic Minorities and the English Countryside" with particular reference to National Parks. Again, this is a subject which remains highly topical, as there are fewer visits by people from BAME groups to national parks compared to the overall diversity of the population of the UK.

THE FUTURE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARKS

Although the current conference was scheduled for 2020, it became clear as the pandemic unfolded that we would have to postpone it, and fortunately we were able to re-schedule it to exactly a year later. We are now looking forward to welcoming speakers and delegates on 12-14 October, including as many NYMA members who can come along. The speakers will examine the current and future roles of national parks and other designated landscapes, and there are certain to be stimulating and insightful discussions. If you haven't booked your place already, please see overleaf for booking details.

THE ENVIRONMENT BILL

Parliament returned on 6th September and this session will see the return of the Environment Bill. The Bill has moved to the Upper House, where the Lords have debated amendments put forward before the summer recess. This is perhaps the most important and complex legislation to come from the present government, and it will bring about significant changes in rural life.

The Bill encompasses changes to the way we farm and manage the land and how this will be funded after the EU ceases to provide the subsidies which have supported farming and land management for so many years. A significant element is the establishment of a new regulatory body, the Office of Environmental Protection (OEP), which will replace oversight by the EU. The OEP was launched on an interim basis in July ahead of its formal establishment when the Environment Bill is enacted. Its website states that it will protect the environment by holding government and public authorities to account against their commitments and environmental law. However, critics have pointed out that the OEP as presently constituted is too closely tied to the government in that it is embedded in Defra with its budget, the composition of its board, and the extent of its remit decided by Government. Typical remarks by leading commentators are:

"The lack of independence combined with the weakness of remedies available following an environmental review compromises the ability of the OEP to pursue effective redress for breaches of environmental law". (Dr. Ronan Cormacain, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, June 2021)

"As currently drafted the OEP will be inferior as an enforcement body to the regime that existed when we were members of the EU. The European Commission was backed by the European Court of Justice and its ability to impose meaningful fines on transgressors." (Baroness Sheenan, House of Lords debate Environment Bill second reading June 2021)

The state of our rivers and some coastal areas as well as the decline in wildlife habitat make it imperative that a strong regulatory body is essential to bring law-breakers to account. We share the concern about the lack of independence and consequently the weakness of the OEP, and we hope that amendments in the coming weeks will rectify these deficiencies.

ESK VALLEY FUNDING FOR HABITAT RESTORATION

A new fund allocated to link biodiversity conservation in the Esk Valley with sustainable commercial activity fits closely with the aims of the Environment Bill. The North York Moors National Park Authority was successful in securing £100,000 under the Government's Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund, which is intended to support nature-based projects until they become financially viable. The NPA will work with the Esk Valley Farmers Group and others over 10,500 hectares on initiatives such as planting new woodland and establishing riverside meadows which will help store water and moderate downstream flows. As well as reducing flood-risk, this will create new habitat for salmon, trout and the critically endangered Freshwater pearl mussel. The project aims to attract investment from the private sector as well as the government.

The Esk Valley scheme is one of three pilot projects under this scheme in the UK (the others are in the New Forest and Cairngorms National Parks). The schemes are overseen by Dubai-based company Palladium, which "works at the intersection of commercial growth and social progress", and we look forward to hearing more as time goes on.

Photo © Tom Chadwick

Inspecting ganister boulders on Spaunton Moor

THE BATTLE OF BYLAND

The search for a suitable stone to mark the location of the Battle of Byland in 1322 and next year's 700th anniversary of this significant historical event may well have been rewarded. Thanks to NYMA Trustee George Winn-Darley, Albert Elliot and I set out to search George's Spaunton Moor Estate with Harry Pearson, National Park volunteer and key mover behind the Battle of Byland commemorations. We identified a boulder from the same area where over two decades ago we found our Millennium Stone.

Lying around the Moor is a litter of slabs of rock deposited around 12,000 years ago by the melting of ice at the end of the last glacial period. The slabs are of a rock known as ganister. In geological terms this is hard, fine-grained sandstone called orthoquartzite; it has been suggested that the rocks were shifted to their present location from around Ralph's Cross by glacial activity. We estimate the selected stone to be between two and three tons in weight and arrangements will be made to move it to Sutton Bank and affix a plaque to it in time for the commemoration of the battle in October 2022.

TOM CHADWICK

NYMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NYMA's AGM will take place on the afternoon of 14 October at the Cober Hill Hotel, Cloughton, from 3-5.30pm (after the conference). It will be good to meet face-to-face after such a long time! If you plan to come, please let us know via secretary@nyma.org.uk.

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

Blakey Ridge & Farndale

SO, ALL BEING WELL, this Autumn NYMA extends a warm welcome to the National Park Societies Conference.

Delayed for a year by global events, it is now held against the backdrop of a greatly changed society; one in which the importance of nature and the role our national parks play in people's well-being have been brought into very sharp focus.

It has been a time which has fundamentally changed the world.

But will the decision-makers put real weight behind responding to the demands of society? Will they truly provide the safeguards and afford the priority to the environment and the natural world exemplified through our national parks, in the face of an overarching crisis for nature on a global scale?

THE NEED FOR ACTION

There could never be a more pertinent moment for our movement to step up another gear to meet the challenges, and through our endeavours ensure desperately needed clear support happens; and quickly. At this critical moment we dare not lose any momentum.

The foundations of a secure future are not about science, not about research, not about complex plans, much as they might underpin the story. The need is already clear, but the route ahead is governed by what I define as the three 'P's - People, Politics and Persuasion - coupled with trying to ensure that there are 'ears to hear'.

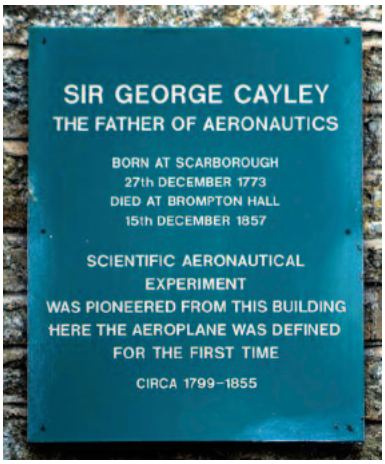
Can this be a pivotal, unified moment which will bring about beneficial change for our National Park world stemming from this Conference and a collective meeting of minds? After all; why should it not? This region has been at the centre of numerous world-shaping events over the previous centuries.

Thinking of the Conference, I searched 'Welcome to the North York Moors National Park', revealing perhaps the first information a newcomer or regular visitor might come across as an introduction to the area.

In what have become increasingly sound-bite driven, low-attention-span times deluged by an overwhelming stream of ephemeral information, my first reaction to what I saw was: what about the things and people that changed the world? In fairness, I am sure I would have found them somewhere if I'd looked hard enough, but their significance lay largely hidden from immediate view.

NORTH-EAST YORKSHIRE EVENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

In 664, the universal date of Easter was set at the Synod of Whitby. In 1853 Sir George Cayley, the father of aeronautics, conducted the first controlled flight of an aircraft in Brompton Dale - his other inventions included the tension-spoked bicycle wheel, the first artificial limbs, the caterpillar track for vehicles, and safety curtains for theatre stages. The late 16th century saw the birth of the modern chemical industry along the North Yorkshire coast with the production of alum as a fix for colouring fabrics, and William Smith's single-handed mapping of the geology of the British Isles in the first half in the 19th Century stands at the foot of the oil industry. Then we have Captain James Cook and his renowned 18th century explorations, and the fossil finds in Kirkdale Cave, again in the early 19th century, which re-wrote understanding of the British landscape and evolution. This is the backdrop which sets the area at the heart of events and understanding which affect everyone today, not only locally, but on a national and international scale.



SECURING THE FUTURE

Now, in our era, nothing could be more important than the fight for the environment, in which our national parks play such a significant role. Are we up to the task of the drive to firmly secure their futures? If we answer 'YES', I leave you with an inspiring quote by Margaret Mead, co-founder of the Earth Society Foundation, established in 1976 to foster worldwide participation in the peaceful care of the Earth:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Let this conference be our springboard to reinforce this sentiment, adding to the world-changing events which have grown from this intriguing corner of England.

The time is right; the need, never more urgent. It might sound like a 'broken record' from across the last 40 years, which many of us will have stated time and again, but there really can be no valid reasons for anyone to ignore and fail to act on it now.

IAN CARSTAIRS

NATIONAL PARK SOCIETIES CONFERENCE 12-14 OCTOBER

NYMA is proud to be hosting the 2021 National Park Societies conference – the first full NPS conference since 2018 and a welcome sign of returning to normal life.

The conference theme is 'The Future Role of National Parks', at a time when concern about climate change is building and demand for leisure in open spaces is growing. Both these factors put pressure on the landscapes and wildlife the national parks were set up to protect. The knowledgeable and entertaining speakers set to discuss this overarching theme are:

- Tom Hind, CEO of the North York Moors NPA. Taking up this role in 2020, Tom is well-placed to steer the national park through the challenging times ahead.
- Debbie Trebilco, Northern Rural Commissioner and Trustee of the North York Moors Trust. A long-term resident of the Moors, Debbie has a particular interest in the role of protected landscapes in mitigating the effects of climate change through renewable energy production.
- Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society and Trustee of the Ramblers. As one of the UK's leading campaigners for access to open spaces, Kate will share her perspective on progress on the Glover Review's proposals for the designated landscape system.
- David Rooke, Chair of the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership. The Derwent is one of Yorkshire's most significant rivers and its careful management is essential not just for wildlife but also for agriculture and forestry and for regulation of downstream water flows.
- Andy Wilson, former CEO of the NYMNPA and Board member of Natural England, who will reflect on his time in office and on how the role of national parks is changing.
- David Steel, CEO of the Dawnay Estates, who will explain how a traditional rural estate lying mainly in the national park is diversifying into different business areas.
- Susan Briggs, tourism marketing consultant. Small hospitality and tourism businesses are crucial to the economy in national parks, and Susan has spent many years advising entrepreneurs across rural Yorkshire on understanding markets and how to engage with them.
- Steve Race, award-winning wildlife photographer, runs a nature-based business and will showcase some of the amazing wildlife of north-east Yorkshire.

View from Ravenscar

Photo © Mike Kipling

- Roger Osborne, local author, playwright, publisher, and geologist, will take us through the interconnections of landscape, geology and history of the North Yorkshire Moors and Coast.

FIELD TRIPS

There's a choice of 3 field trips on offer on the last morning of the conference and before NYMA's AGM:

- Robin Hood's Bay and Ravenscar to understand more about the Yorkshire Heritage Coast through its geology, history, and current use, especially the pressures of tourism.
- Spaunton Moor to discuss management of heather moorland for grouse-rearing, sheep-grazing and wildlife, and the traditional village of Appleton-le-Moors to hear about how it has adapted through the centuries.
- Grosmont, where the North York Moors Heritage Railway is based, to explore the social and economic history of the area and learn about lineside conservation management.

Not booked yet? There may still be places available for residential or non-residential delegates. It's also possible to attend as a day delegate on Weds 13th October, when the main presentations take place. There are discounts for NYMA members. For schedules and booking information, please see 'Conference 2021' on the website https://nyma.org.uk or email secretary@nyma.org.uk.

NYMA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

OUR excellent and efficient Membership Secretary, Cal Moore, is standing down next April so we need someone to take over. If you have experience of customer relationship management or you'd just like to get involved, do consider joining our team.

The role involves maintaining the list of members, processing new membership applications, keeping track of renewals, and mailing out 'Voice of the Moors' 4 times per year (an ability to use spreadsheets is essential). If you're a dab hand at social media too, all the better!

The work can be done from home but you're also welcome to join the quarterly Council meetings. This is a voluntary post but expenses are paid.

Please contact Janet Cochrane on secretary@nyma.org.uk or 07570 112010 for an informal chat.

THE VETCHES

VETCHES are members of the pea or fabaceae family (leguminosae) and are well-known plants of our lower roads and tracks, usually seen in the hedgerows and verges. They have a distinctive five-petalled flower with a top erect 'standard', two smaller side 'wings', with the lower two joined to form a 'keel', protecting the stamens and style. The flowers more often occur together in loose or compact 'heads' though some have single or a few. The leaves are usually pinnate, often ending in tendrils, and the fruit is a typical pea-like pod of seeds. It is a large family and here I will concentrate on the most common locally of the vetches, with mention of some close relatives.

THE BEES' FAVOURITE – AND SUNBATHERS

As I write this, in mid-summer, two of the most showy vetches are still in flower, clinging to the hedges with their branching tendrils and lighting up the roads and verges: the vivid yellow Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and the deep purple Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*). They flower from May to August and are a magnet for the bees and other insects. The third common one on our verges, road-sides and woodland edges is the Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*), probably the most widespread but not as noticeable, as its flowers are a dull pink/purple rapidly fading to a blue/brown and, being a weak climber, it remains flowering amongst the other vegetation. But it's probably the bees' favourite and has a very long flowering period from April to November, a boon to them.

Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*)

Bitter Vetchling (*Lathyrus linifolius*)

Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*)

The Bitter Vetchling (*Lathyrus linifolius*) of more acid, older and undisturbed soils is a more upland plant of moorland verges and wood edge. It has red flowers, fading to blue, in a small loose head, and narrow pinnate leaves with no tendrils. An early flowering plant from April to June, it does not need to raise itself above the rest of the still-developing vegetation. It is an indication of older, more diverse verges.

Two very different but mostly coastal vetches are the Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*) and the Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*). The Kidney Vetch is a compact downy plant with round heads of yellow flowers fringed with orange, and grey pinnate leaves with no tendrils. It is a cliff-side plant that enjoys the space and sun of this open habitat. The Wood Vetch, on the other hand, is a vigorous plant with branched tendrils scrambling up cliffs and coastal woodland edges, with long loose heads of white flowers lined with purple, and small multi pinnate leaves. Both these flower over the height of the summer - true sunbathers!

Another two vetches are usually found near farmland or open banks. One, the so-called Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*) with pink single or twin flowers from May to September, is an old species introduced as a fodder crop but which has now naturalised. The other, the Hairy Tare (*Vicia hirsuta*) is an old farm weed of cornfields, now found on other disturbed ground, a straggly small-leaved plant with dainty white flowers. Both these are annual plants whereas the other vetches are all perennial.

Similar common roadside plants of the same family are the Yellow Birds' foot, Large Birds' foot and Lesser Trefoils, Black Medic and the Red and White clovers.

MEDICINE, FOOD AND SOIL NUTRITION

The only vetch mentioned in the old herbals as a medicinal plant is the Kidney Vetch, which as its Latin name - *A. vulneraria* - suggests, was used as a vulnary, or wound herb, to staunch blood and heal wounds and ulcers.

The tubers of the Bitter Vetch were used as a food, a flavouring for whisky and a substitute 'chewing gum' - 'nuts of pease', with an acid/sweet taste; it is also known as wild liquorice. The true liquorice belongs to the same family, as do peas, beans and lentils, and also many of the old fodder crops for our livestock: clover, meliot, alfalfa and sainfoin.

More significantly for the environment and our food supplies, the members of this family all have nodules on their roots containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria which convert nitrogen from the air into ammonium, that can be taken up from the soil by other nearby plants and later plantings as a food source. So the vetches and other members of the leguminosae are highly important plants for our food, livestock and wildlife, as well as giving us pleasure from their brightly coloured flowers.

ANNE PRESS

AUTUMN MIGRANTS

Siskin

AUTUMN is a fascinating and rewarding time to look out for less common migrant birds, whether they are here for the winter or just passing through. The majority of arrivals come from the north or northeast seeking to avoid the worst of the continental winter. But this is all changing. There have always been partial or facultative (irregular) migrants such as Waxwings and finches (Redpoll, Siskin, Hawfinch, etc.) which will travel only as far as they need to find food, but as climate change takes hold, warmer winters are becoming more common, and these hazardous journeys become less necessary.

In parallel, some species, such as the Blackcap, which used to head from Germany to the Mediterranean now winter in the UK. How this will all pan out remains to be seen, but as with all the other effects of climate change, the outcome is unlikely to be good.

We can only wait to see what this autumn will bring, but September and October are generally the busiest months for these often vast bird movements. Every autumn, the UK's coasts and wetlands are host to around 1.5 million lapwings, half a million dunlin, 300,000 knot, 300,000 oystercatchers, 60,000 bar-tailed godwits, 50,000 redshanks and 40,000 grey plovers! Many of them then move inland or along the coast and can be seen or heard passing on the way to their winter territory.

MIGRANT THRUSHES

Of those which stop off in the fields and valleys of the Moors, perhaps the most widespread are two thrushes. The Fieldfare is the larger and more colourful of the two. Both feed initially on berry-laden bushes in hedgerows and around woodlands, but they will venture into our gardens when there is snow cover or if the winter is severe. The Fieldfare's head and rump are grey, contrasting with a black tail and rich chestnut-red back and wings, and much black in the longer flight feathers. Their breasts and flanks are heavily speckled with dark spots. They are sociable birds and can be seen in flocks of 200+ birds, often mixed with other thrushes. Their most often heard call is a harsh, aggressive sounding 'chack-chack'.

The second visitor is the smaller Redwing which frequently migrates at night - on clear evenings listen out for their 'tsee' call overhead. Their feeding habits are similar to those of the Fieldfare, and later in the winter apples and berry-producing bushes like Hawthorn may attract them into your garden when food is scarce. Their most distinctive feature is a very noticeable pale stripe above the eye and another, less pronounced, below the cheek. The spots on their underparts are strongly marked, but it is the chestnut-red colour to the underwing and flanks which gives the bird its name. The Redwing is rather nomadic and tends not to return regularly to the same wintering areas. Their arrival period also varies, being later in years with good berry crops in Scandinavia. In bad years, combined migration numbers may be in the millions; if the Scandinavian berry crop fails, they have no alternative but to head over the sea to the British Isles in the hope of finding winter sustenance.

The British Trust for Ornithology carried out a Winter Thrush Survey in 2017/8 to help understand which food resources were the most important. The most commonly recorded food for Fieldfare and Redwing during October and November was hawthorn berries. In December and January when berries became harder to find, they moved on to apples. Then in February and March they moved on to invertebrates in the soil, which is when flocks can be seen in ploughed or stubbly fields. Hard frosts can make ground feeding impossible though, forcing them into gardens and parks looking for berries and fruit. This shift from foraging in trees, shrubs or hedgerows at the beginning of winter to ground foraging from January onwards is common to all thrush species including our residents.

Redpoll

SPOTTING OTHER MIGRANTS

Birdwatching around the Moors during the autumn can spring some welcome surprises with Pied Flycatchers, waders and terns moving through. It's worth spending time looking at any tit flocks you might see too, as they often include warblers, which may occasionally be rarer species such as Yellow-browed Warblers, plus, perhaps, some finches such as Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs.

Eyes peeled then .....

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 contact: Mike Gray on gbwmike@gmail.com.

LEARNING FROM THE HISTORY OF THE MOORS

Trees in mist at Danby Dale

Photos © Mike Kipling

THE RENOWNED scenery of the Yorkshire Moors has been shaped by a long and fascinating history of human intervention. When we talk of 'restoring' the environment, it is important to keep in mind that these areas have been constantly changing. However, the current state of the Moors is not as healthy as it should be and we can look to the past for clues about what we might do to improve this impressive landscape for the people and the wildlife that rely on it.

SHAPING THE MOORS OVER MILLENNIA

Extensive research on changes in vegetation after the last Ice Age show that the Moors developed into an ecologically diverse environment of woods, grassland, scrub heathland and wet bogs. Mixed woodlands supported lynx, wolves and brown bear until around the 6th century. Grassland meadows within the woods were created by large herbivores such as deer, bison, saiga antelopes, and wild cattle (aurochs), most of which were hunted to extinction by the Bronze Age. Natural heathlands would have been limited to coasts, cliff tops and mountainsides where soil was thin and winds prevent the development of large trees. The upland bogs started forming 9000 years ago as ice retreated with peat growing to an average of 1.3m deep in the Moors.

Early humans cleared large areas for crops and grazing by extensive felling and burning of woodlands starting in the Neolithic age, evidenced by charcoal and substantial increases in cereal pollens. Clearing of woodlands for agriculture and iron production continued during the Roman period, the Viking occupation and the 12th and 13th centuries, with the invention of the wheeled plough and three-field rotation. There were cyclical resurgences of woodland during the Roman withdrawal, the 'harrying of the North' by the Normans, and the population collapse in the 14th century due to a devastating combination of crop failures, cattle plague, the Black Death, and the 'little Ice Age'. Cutting of forests continued to accelerate until by 1905, forest coverage in England had shrunk to 5.2% of the land area.

As woodlands disappeared and upland soils were exploited for food, the few nutrients were rapidly depleted, creating nutrient-poor and acidic land, perfect habitat for heathland plants to take hold. Thus, the heather heathlands that now dominate the North York Moors are a result of millennia of human exploitation.

Causing more environmental harm was the draining of the Dales and Moors for forestry, agriculture and grazing. A healthy bog is waterlogged with a water table within 10cm of the surface and, as peat forms, tons of carbon are captured and stored. It is estimated that around 50% of carbon in UK soils - around 33 billion tons - is in upland peat with about a quarter in Yorkshire.

Deep bogs should be dominated by Sphagnum moss which can hold 20 times its weight in water, helping to prevent flooding during wet weather and releasing water during dry conditions. Healthy mires are so wet that snowshoes are often needed to walk on them! Other mire plants in healthy bogs include crowberry, cloudberry, bog rosemary, and sundews, most of which are rare in the Moors. Degraded bogs are more often dominated by heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), purple moor grass and other species that prefer drier conditions.

Around 2009, the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) conducted a survey of 37,022 ha. of peat in the Pennines, Dales and Moors. Of over 25,000 survey points, only two were dominated by Sphagnum with the rest having from 25% to over 75% heather cover. Much of the draining of the bogs took place between the 1950s and 1980s and more than 80% of Yorkshire upland mires were left in a degraded and damaged state (Thom and Hinchley, 2019).

RESTORING PEATLAND

So what should the future hold for these complex landscapes? There is no end of opinion, but it has become clear that doing nothing is not an option, as only 14% of UK upland peatlands are in favourable condition. Work is already underway to restore large areas of moorland bogs to a healthier status which will help to control flooding, improve water quality, store carbon, and create habitat for upland species. Since 2009, YPP has completed the initial restoration of a remarkable 31,526 ha. of peat, 33% of the blanket bog in Yorkshire, including almost 900 ha. at Rosedale Moor and Westerdale Common in the North York Moors National Park. Also, YPP has received funding for an exciting new project, the Great North Bog, aimed at creating a connected, landscape-scale peatland of around 7,000 square kilometres in northern England.

There are projects underway to remove trees planted on peatland and to restore woodland in appropriate places. This

planting of the 'right tree in the right place' is vital to restoring a healthy Moors habitat. For instance, in Langdale Forest over 100 ha. of plantation conifer have been removed as part of the restoration project at May Moss, the only undisturbed blanket mire in the Moors. In other areas, the forest is being restructured from single-aged, single species stands to more mixed woodland, aimed at creating a landscape-scale network of semi-natural habitats. The 'Slow the Flow' project to reduce flooding by restoring natural features such as woodland, woody debris dams in streams, no-burn zones, and upstream peatland and wetlands has proven extremely effective. In one of the first schemes trialled at Pickering, after floods in 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2007, the project began in 2009 with the aim of reducing the risk of flooding in any year from 25% to 4%. On Boxing Day 2015, 50mm of rain fell in 36 hours and an analysis found that the project prevented flooding to a number of properties, reducing the flood peak by 15-20% and illustrating the importance of healthy uplands.

GROUSE MOOR MANAGEMENT

There is also the contentious area of management of grouse moors. While the common practice of shallow burning does not necessarily damage underlying peat, if done correctly and not too often, the practice is explicitly aimed at maintaining the heather-dominated, drier landscape. Studies indicate that the exposed peat surface resulting from heather burning is the most significant cause of high levels of dissolved organic matter in water, requiring extensive treatment to remove. The vast majority (over 96%) of YPP work is on private land largely owned and managed for the purposes of grouse shooting, including 28% of the North York Moors. From 2021, burning on deep peat is no longer allowed, but much of the Moors has shallower peat on heathland where burning can continue.

There is more debate to be had as to whether driven grouse shooting has had its day. Britain is the only country in the world that offers this type of hunting, which requires large numbers of Red grouse dependent on intensive management. While several landowners are working with the YPP to restore deep bogs (though some could not be persuaded), even the burning of shallow peat causes issues with water quality and habitat while the unnaturally large number of birds increases burden of disease. The Willow grouse, of which the Red grouse is a

Easterside hill, Bilsdale, in autumn

Peat bog and Old Ralph's Cross, Westerdale

subspecies, has breeding densities of 0.1 to 10 pairs per km^2 across its natural habitats in Europe and North America, but in the UK the intensive management, lack of predators, and high rates of medication result in 150-500 birds per km^2.

Rough shooting and stalking of grouse in woodland areas, the way most grouse hunting in other countries is conducted, requires far less intensive management and is more environmentally sustainable. Indeed, many people consider this the more enjoyable form of grouse hunting. A number of estates in Scotland have already stopped driven shooting in favour of walk-up hunts.

THE FUTURE OF MOORLAND

It is important to debate all proposals and be innovative and visionary with possible solutions. What is the purpose of a national park? Who should be accountable and who should make the decisions that affect a huge range of stakeholders? There may be the loss of a few jobs if driven hunts were stopped, a common rejoinder to the proposals to regulate grouse shooting more. Grouse shooting supports around 1500 jobs across all of England, including those in the supporting services. Meanwhile, the ten National Parks in England support over 48,000 jobs from the tourism sector alone. Only 1% of the visitors to the Yorkshire national parks do so for grouse shooting.

Putting more investment into areas like public transport, apprenticeships, broadband and mobile coverage, and provision of affordable housing, could create many more jobs in addition to those already being created by the ongoing environmental restoration projects. But whatever the decisions made, we need to ensure that any developments lead to a healthy, equitable and prosperous future for the Moors and all who enjoy its splendours.

JEAN MCKENDREE

Dr Jean McKendree is an environmental scientist and has worked at the University of York / Stockholm Environment Institute. She has researched peatlands in North Yorkshire and Scandinavia.

Reference

Thom, T. and Hinchley, D. (2019) Yorkshire Peat Partnership: 10 years of restoring Yorkshire's upland peatlands, 2009-2019. Available at: https://www.yppartnership.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/191121%202009_2019%20full%20report%20TT_0.pdf
A full list of references is available on request.

LEPIDOPTERA

THE SMALL EGGAR


Small Eggar caterpillars on larval web


Male Small Eggar


Small Eggar larval web by road

Photos © Sam Newton

FOR THE PAST three years, alongside my work for the National Park, I have been doing a part-time MSc in Biological Recording and Monitoring. For my dissertation I studied the Small Eggar (*Eriogaster lanestris*) moth, which is classified as 'Nationally Scarce' but has an important stronghold within the Vale of Pickering. The aim has been to investigate the environmental variables associated with the presence of Small Eggar larval webs. This is a much-condensed account of that journey.

EARLY MOTHS AND SOCIAL CATERPILLARS

Adult Small Eggar are rarely recorded, possibly as few people moth-trap from late February to early April when the adults fly. However, soon after hatching from late April to early July, caterpillars build compact silken webs around the egg mass and live gregariously on them.

The social nature of the caterpillars allows a number of benefits. Larval webs absorb thermal energy outside and within, and the caterpillars move around it to control their temperature. This 'tent-based thermoregulation' allows them to maintain body temperatures above their colder surroundings early in the year, and thus metabolise faster and pupate sooner. Caterpillars also carry out distinct, synchronised foraging bouts from the larval web onto the surrounding foodplant, using chemical trails to mark their routes.

The larval webs can be fairly conspicuous on hedgerows, although in North East Yorkshire there are only around 40 historic records, and the distribution has never really been known.

The Small Eggar was considered common across England at the end of the 19th and into the mid-20th century, but now only has strongholds in parts of Oxfordshire, East Anglia, and the Vale of Pickering.

FAVOURED SITES FOR LARVAL WEBS

The vast destruction of hedgerows coupled with modern intensive land management, pollution from vehicles and agricultural drift have often been quoted as key drivers behind the Small Eggar's decline; however, many larval webs are seen on managed hedgerows and alongside major roads and intensive agriculture. To try and understand the true reasons why the Small Eggar has declined, and to understand its habitat preferences, I spent the summers of 2019 and 2020 surveying for larval webs.

The Vale of Pickering was searched, with 78 larval webs found in 2019 and 96 in 2020. At each location variables were recorded relating to scrub/hedgerow structure, composition, and the chemical content of the foodplants (by collecting and analysing small samples). In 2020 the same number of random control surveys were carried out where there were no larval webs as I had done where there were larval webs in 2019. These allowed comparison between sites with and without larval webs in order to try and identify what habitat the Small Eggar were specifically selecting, in comparison to general hedgerows.

The results indicated that the moths were selecting exposed locations with fewer nearby trees, preferring south-facing sites on managed hedgerows that were longer and better connected, and comprised of mainly blackthorn and hawthorn (two thirds of larval webs were on blackthorn). These factors link to enhanced tent-based thermoregulation and increased potential for web attachments, available food, ventilation and sunlight.

In terms of conservation, hedgerow management has likely become more suited to Small Eggar, as regulations mean that hedgerows are not being removed or generally cut at damaging times (although hedgerows cut in February could remove early eggs). The influence of Agri-Environment Schemes overall appears beneficial in other ways too, with planting and restoration creating longer and better-connected hedgerows.

I stress that 'managed hedgerows' does not need to mean 'flailed yearly'. A number of larval webs were found on unmanaged hedgerows/scrub. This suggests that hedgerows cut less often (e.g. every 3 years) are suitable, as they give more varied structure and provide benefits for a wide range of species.

Small Eggar are using what habitat is available to them. I can imagine that open wood pasture with extensive scrub would be very suitable. These mosaic habitats would offer much more connectivity, rather than the linear and relatively poorly connected, managed hedgerows of today. In support of this, in 2020 a number of larval webs were found in old quarry sites with regenerating hawthorn scrub.

This is not the full story. It is puzzling that so few larval webs are seen unless actively searched for. Have modern naturalists sacrificed recording along lanes and footpaths for the ease of getting into their cars to visit 'interesting sites'? Why else are these larval webs not seen? There must be other colonies out there, and it is definitely worth keeping an eye out.

SAM NEWTON
Woodland Creation Officer with the North York Moors National Park

THE MAST ON THE MOOR

Bilsdale mast in August 2020

Photo © Littledumpy34 / Wikipedia

Coverage from Bilsdale communications mast

Map © tx.mb21.co.uk

UNTIL August 10th, few of the million or so people whose TV screens suddenly went blank had heard of Bilsdale, the westernmost of the major north-south valleys which cut through the North York Moors. Then, while an engineer was working on site, a fire started in the feeder building at the foot of the communications mast on Bilsdale West Moor, and transmission of TV and radio signals was lost along with mobile phone coverage to the local area.

The Bilsdale mast stands above the hamlet where my husband and I lived for many years. Driving from York via Sproxton, you pause at the T-junction with the A170 before turning down into Helmsley. Opposite the junction is the Nelson Gate into Duncombe Park, and glancing through it you can discern a tall form like a distant pencil bisecting the triumphal archway; after dark a vertical line of red lights warns aircraft of its presence. Spotting it was like seeing a beacon welcoming me home. When the name 'Bilsdale' suddenly made even the national news, I decided to look into the story of the mast.

ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The huge steel column was erected in 1969 by the BBC to bring good-quality colour TV to Teesside, Co. Durham and parts of North Yorkshire via UHF transmitters, connecting to a network of relay stations. This would ensure that people in the north-east had the same access to information and entertainment as their southern counterparts, with Bilsdale West Moor selected as the best site because it offers direct line-of-sight to homes across a vast area.

Yet by the late '60s the North York Moors National Park had been in existence for 15 years, supposedly benefiting from the highest level of landscape protection. Given the strength of public feeling that brought the national parks into existence in the first place, was there no opposition to its construction, I wondered? I discovered that indeed there was. Bill Cowley, then President of the Lyke Wake Walk Club, wrote to the Times in 1967 to highlight how the planned mast would add yet another "man-made monstrosity" to other artificial constructions and changes to land-use which already marred the view from the Lyke Wake Walk, which in the mid-50s traversed "40 miles of open moor passing no sign of human habitation". He ended with the question "Is no-one strong enough to say that some wild areas must be kept inviolate at any cost?"

The answer was clear: apparently not. The few voices raised in opposition were dismissed in the interest of the greater public benefit, and work began. The foot of the mast stands at 380m above sea-level and the towering structure offers a further 314m above that. Even now it is the tenth tallest structure in Britain, and until the fire it was amongst the most powerful transmitters in the UK. Essentially a vast steel tube anchored by immensely strong cables, the cylinder acted as a chimney to draw the flames and smoke upwards: at one stage smoke could be seen pouring from ventilation apertures high up. The mast is so badly damaged that it will have to be dismantled and replaced.

RESTORING TRANSMISSION

Arqiva, the company that operates the mast, worked quickly to restore TV and radio coverage by boosting the signal from other masts and installing new temporary transmitters, including one at Sutton Bank – but because of the unique location of the Bilsdale mast, inevitably not everyone's Freeview services could be restored. While many households can watch or listen to their favourite programmes via online, cable or digital services, the loss of transmission has been especially challenging for households without good internet access, including many elderly and socially isolated people.

In late August people who were still unable to access their normal services were offered a partial refund of the TV licence fee. Planning is under way to replace the damaged mast with a temporary one initially, but aside from the sophisticated engineering requirements, the surrounding land is managed for sheep-grazing and red grouse and lies within a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation - not to mention the planning process required for any major development within the National Park.

There is one certainty: as long as people get their TV and radio signal back they won't care where it comes from. Yet for those of us who walk and ride the moors of Bilsdale, Bransdale and beyond, the mast has become a friendly landmark – and if it was no longer there, we would miss it!

JANET COCHRANE

YORKSHIRE SEAWEED – TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE


Seaweed farm, looking towards Scarborough


Harvesting seed

Photos © SeaGrown

ONE OF THE glories of the North York Moors National Park is its spectacular coastline, most of which is also Heritage Coast. There is increasing awareness that the marine environment extending from that shoreline is also a vital natural habitat. Part of the seabed off Runswick Bay is now a Marine Conservation Zone, and organisations like the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are actively campaigning for this coastal protection to be extended along the entire Yorkshire coast, and for that protection to be properly implemented.

The coastline has another potential use which could have a major impact on our lives: the farming of seaweed. It is well known that seaweed has great nutritional value and can provide a key ingredient in the pharmaceutical, chemical and food industries. Kelp was an essential part of alum production in the Runswick area until the mid-19th century, and today it is an ingredient of many healthy and vegan foods - although too often it has to be imported even to an island like ours surrounded by seas and seaweed.

SEAWEED'S ROLE IN ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

But seaweed's input to the wider well-being of humanity doesn't end there. It is a prime producer of oxygen; it is estimated that 70% of the world's oxygen is produced by the action of seaweed, which also oxygenates the water for sea-life and reduces acidification of sea-water. It is also a major absorber of CO^2: it has been estimated that acre for acre, seaweed is twenty times more efficient as an absorber of carbon dioxide than woodland. It also helps protect our coastline from wave action and provides an important habitat for marine life.

So growing seaweed, and even better turning it to productive use, could be a hugely important way of mitigating climate change whilst at the same time offering economic value. It is difficult to imagine a green technology which could bring more simultaneous benefits both to humankind and the world we inhabit. If at the same time it can bring employment to a part of the UK where new jobs are urgently needed, especially for young people, this would seem a dream scenario.

SEAGROWN

Enter SeaGrown – a Scarborough-based company which is doing just that. It was established in 2018 by two remarkable individuals: Wave Crookes, a fisherman, former Royal Navy Diver and marine expert from Scarborough, and Laura Robinson, Professor of Geochemistry at the University of Bristol. It was on board the British Antarctic Survey's Royal Research Ship James Clark Ross that Wave and Laura met, and SeaGrown was born.

Laura and Wave began their enterprise by cutting seaweed by hand along the Yorkshire coast. Establishing a seaweed farm out at sea to develop their project on a more professional and commercial basis was made possible by grants from the Coastal Communities Fund and the Business Enterprise Fund, enabling them to buy equipment.

Seagrown is based – appropriately - on a boat in Scarborough Harbour, the Southern Star, a restored former survey vessel built in Australia in 1973 and which once saw service in the Falkland Islands. The company has established Britain's first licensed seaweed farm, covering a 10 hectare site some 4.8 kms. from the coast, away from busy shipping lanes and fishing areas.

The farm grows commercial varieties of seaweed on sunken cables or 'lines' linked to buoys and markers. The seaweed is originated from seed collected locally. Seaweed requires no land, no fresh water, no artificial chemicals or fertilisers, but uses just the power of the sun and minerals in the sea to grow. The actual cultivation is undertaken from a smaller workboat, the Bright Blue, by a skilled team who carry out the tasks of planting, supervising and harvesting the crop, while a sophisticated system of buoys automatically monitors weather conditions in the notoriously tempestuous North Sea.

Once harvested, the seaweed is transformed in the company's Scarborough processing plant into a variety of products, including food seasonings, salt substitutes, bath salts, bioplastics and other products, some of which the company markets direct to the public as well as providing raw materials for other producers. SeaGrown is now also a consultancy

offering its expertise to others, and there is every hope this pioneering enterprise will lead to other seaweed farms being established in the UK as they have been in coastal areas of the Netherlands, Spain and Scandinavia.

SUSTAINABLE EXPANSION

Biodegradable plastic from seaweed has a huge variety of uses, for example for food packaging. And one particular usage in our National Parks and AONBs could be for tree-guards which, when life-expired, would not produce dangerous and damaging plastic litter but soil-friendly, seaweed-based fertiliser. NYMA has added its voice to the campaign led by the Yorkshire Dales National Park to remove the unsightly scourge of discarded tree-guards from our landscapes, and a seaweed-based, truly biodegradable alternative could be part of the solution.

Southern Star in Scarborough

Photo © Colin Speakman

To survive and expand, SeaGrown realise they cannot depend on public sector support alone. They do all they can to raise awareness, including through social media, and – in an astute move - by turning Southern Star into a floating café and bar in busy Scarborough Harbour, with a shop and interpretive centre on board. They have also launched crowdfunding appeals to raise funds to extend the farm and expand production, improving commercial viability and local job opportunities.

There is much grand talk by politicians of all parties of the 'green technological revolution' and creating new, skilled jobs for young people, especially in areas like Scarborough with high unemployment rates and lack of all-year job opportunities. SeaGrown is a beacon of hope both for a more sustainable planet and a more prosperous future for the young people of our region.

So when you are next in Scarborough, make your way to St Vincent's Pier at the far side of the Harbour and visit Southern Star; or if you want to help make a difference and contribute to a greener planet, consider making a donation or buying a Christmas gift via their website - www.seagrown.co.uk.

COLIN SPEAKMAN

RAVENSCAR BRICKWORKS

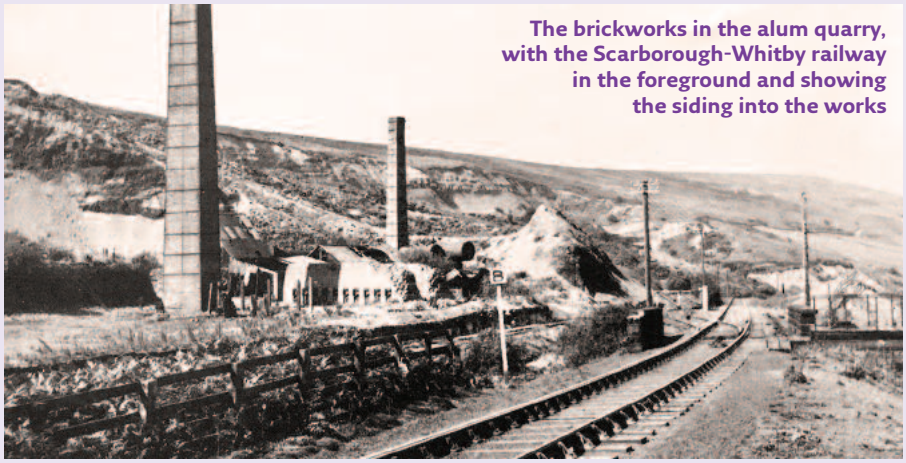

The brickworks in the alum quarry, with the Scarborough-Whitby railway in the foreground and showing the siding into the works

Photo © Bay Museum collection

DURING the 17th to 19th centuries huge quarries were opened throughout the northern and eastern areas of what became the North York Moors National Park to win Liassic shale, from which the valuable commodity alum was extracted. The removal of millions of tons of shale over a period of many years left vast scars upon the landscape which are still visible today. The southern-most quarry, Peak Alum Quarry, was situated at Ravenscar, set back a little from the cliff edge below the ridge of Stoupe Brow. In intermittent production from around 1615 until finally abandoned in 1862, the quarries are still a dominant feature in the landscape.

The building of the Scarborough to Whitby railway line, which opened in 1865, cut right across the front of the old quarry, a factor which for a few short decades gave new life to the old workings.

The story of the proposal to build a Victorian estate at Ravenscar in the early 1900s is well known. It was expected that tourism - boosted by the coming of the new railway - would open up the area and plans to build hundreds of new houses were quickly drawn up. Thousands of bricks would be needed; enter Benjamin Whitaker & Sons from Leeds to supply them.

Kilns were set up on the old quarry floor and a siding constructed to link with the railway to allow bricks to be easily transported to the site of the new town. Silica sand is a major component in brick-making and this was obtained from a quarry near Helwath Bridge, close to the main Scarborough-Whitby road. The quarry produced ganister, which contains a high proportion of silica, which - after crushing - was transported to the brickworks via a horse-drawn tramway over the moor, and then down a counterweighted incline into the quarry. The line of the incline can still be seen from 'Ron's Seat' close to the radio mast. The ganister quarry was closed in the 1960s and the land reclaimed.

Apart from a small number of houses, the proposed development at Ravenscar never materialised. The brick company flourished however, supplying bricks for building developments in Scarborough, notable the Odeon cinema. Whitaker's Brick Company operated up to the 1930s and the kiln chimneys were demolished in the 1960s. Remains of the kilns can still be seen in the quarry, and you can find bricks stamped with the name 'Ravenscar' set into the track leading down the Cleveland Way from the National Trust Centre.

ALAN STANIFORTH

Photo © Alan Staniforth

BOOK REVIEW

THANK YOU KATE!

Runswick Bay

THE CHANNEL 5 series 'Kate Humble's Coastal Britain', broadcast in February and March 2021, included two episodes that featured parts of the Yorkshire coastline. A walk from Robin Hood's Bay to Scarborough was followed by one from Boulby to Whitby, the National Park Authority providing assistance to both programmes. During these episodes, Kate Humble referred to 'The Yorkshire Coast and the Cleveland Hills and Dales' by John Leyland, published in 1892. This book was unknown to me so I obtained a copy; it turned out to be a very accessible read.

The North York Moors National Park didn't come into being until 1952 but the area was known to writers long before then. Works such as 'The History and Antiquities of Cleveland' by J. W. Ord (1846) and 'A Month in Yorkshire' by Walter White (1858) were followed by 'Companion into North Riding' by J. H. Ingram (1952), Harry Mead's 'Inside the North York Moors' (1978) and 'A Prospect of the North York Moors' (2000). These and other publications are invaluable in building up an awareness of areas of the National Park and of their evolution. A late 19th century perspective had been absent for me and John Leyland's book in particular has come to the rescue.

EXPLORING THE MOORS BEFORE THE MOTORING AGE

The book takes us along the coast between the Tees and Humber and inland to cover most of what is now the North York Moors. The author structures most of the chapters around water, whether it's parts of the coast or along the Esk and the Rye and their tributaries. Leyland projects a strong sense of connectedness between different areas of the Moors and we're regularly made aware of places that are 'just over the hill' from each other. This is one of the book's charms, as is the writing style which reflects the nature of walking and exploring then, compared to these days of consumerism ('outdoor' clothing, 'hospitality' and so on) and increasing dependence on technology. There were no motor vehicles in 1892; a rail network was in place but it seems to have had a negligible role in the author's travels. When he wasn't walking (or "wayfaring") he may have travelled on horseback or horse-drawn vehicles such as dog-carts. This was also a time when: "No regular roadway runs through [Bransdale] like that through Bilsdale, the main road from Kirkby Moorside to Ingleby Greenhow being along Rudland Ridge."

The following typifies the style and content of John Leyland's book:

"Return we now to Glaisdale End, in order that we may continue our wayfaring up Eskdale. The splendid woods of Arncliff are left behind, but still there is plenty of foliage in the dale, and there are pleasant farmsteads and cultivated fields; and, as we go forward along the road on the slope of the southern hill, the river is seen in a tortuous course below, winding about with many a dimpling curve, accompanied always by the railway, and beyond is the sunny slope of Lealholm Side, with the varied contours of the hills, divided by the tributary Stonegate Beck."

It wasn't entirely a pastoral Eden in the late 19th century: Grosmont is referred to as a "disfigurement" due to industrial development and "The beauty of Rosedale is somewhat detracted from by the ironworks, the lofty chimney whereof is a conspicuous object from Cropton; and these works, and the mineral railway by which they are in communication with Middlesborough, have lent activity to the dale, for several hundreds of men are employed."

You'll see from the above extracts that some place names are now spelt differently. Content such as this simply confirms that we're on a continuous timeline along which representation changes around our knowledge and perceptions. You can introduce a personal perspective when reading such books: it occurred to me that one of my grandparents was born in 1892, the other three being of school age by then. Oh my, all just two generations ago!

JOHN ROBERTS

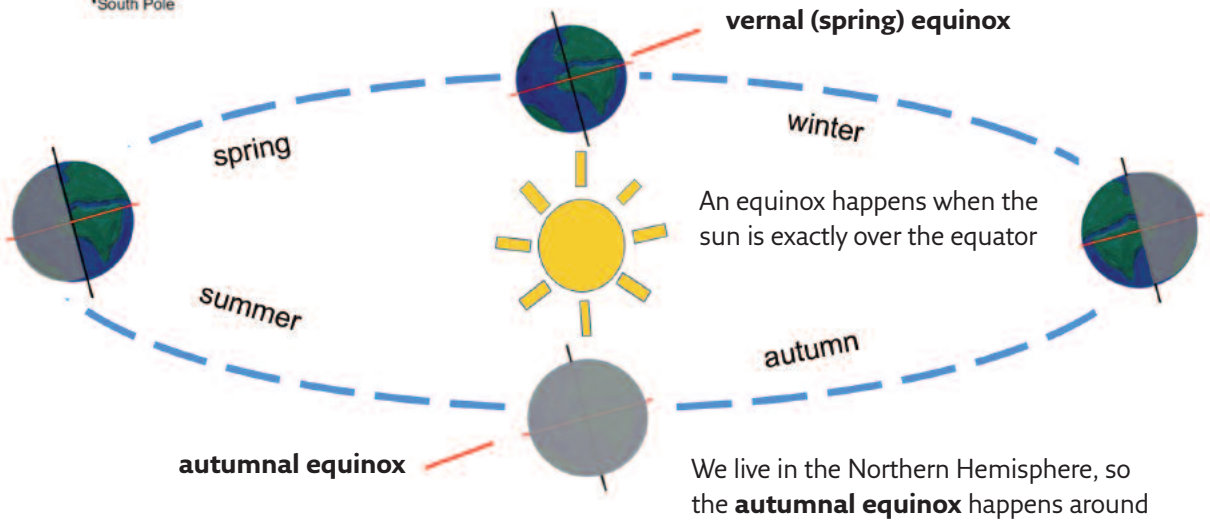
This is an amended version of an article first published in *'Involved Extra'*, NYMNP volunteers' newsletter.

Exploring Grosmont Ironworks

SKYLARKS

After the longer days of the summer we are now getting used to longer, darker evenings and mornings. On one day in autumn there are equal hours during the day and night. This is known as the **autumnal equinox**. How does this happen?

The earth takes one day (24 hours) to rotate on its own axis. It tilts at 23.5 degrees and travels around the sun, which takes a year.

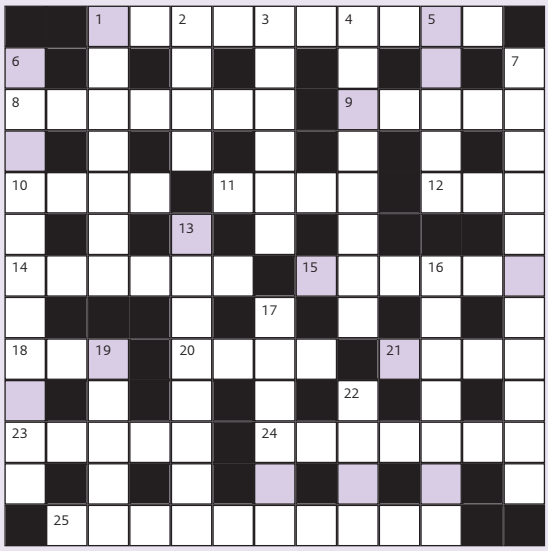


An equinox happens when the sun is exactly over the equator

We live in the Northern Hemisphere, so the **autumnal equinox** happens around September 22nd.

The spring equinox, known as the **vernal equinox**, also has equal hours during the day and night. Can you work out what date this will happen?

CROSSWORD 94 by AMANUENSIS



Take the letters from the coloured squares and rearrange in the boxes to solve the anagram:
CLUE: The last resort? Certainly not!
In fact it claims to be the first.

ACROSS

1 Shelter from the storm (6,4)
8 Soaking up 18 across? (7)
9 Fruit beer has very soft centre (5)
10 The greatest runner in the world (4)
11 A tear shed by apprentice (4)
12 First Lady (3)
14 23 usually ends up like this (6)
15 Where spinner makes catch (6)
18 Early riser (3)
20 Catch sight of eastern mole (4)
21 Exploding star in Russia (4)
23 Goes with tatties over the border (5)
24 Skipper fitting in Adam's eldest (7)
25 The exact middle of the graveyard perhaps (4,6)

DOWN

1 Seafood gives fast eye movement to the French (6)
2 From the same source in old Italian (4)
3 Large ringer at the Palace (3,3)
4 Grow drugs in this perhaps? (5,3)
5 Currency from troubled east Peru (5)
6 Are they chips off the same block? (5,6)
7 Bringing it all back (11)
13 Badly resealed but set free (8)
16 Silver amongst rubbish is careless loss (7)
17 Tribal member ends up with dull pain (6)
19 A female, relatively speaking (5)
22 Opts out of place (4)

Answers on back cover

NYMA NEWS

WE'VE ENJOYED several good walks and get-togethers over the past few weeks, including walks in remote Baysdale, the Murk Esk Valley near Goathland, and around Appleton-le-Moors. Our guided walk there was led by Jim Hall, who had fascinating stories to relate about local history and residents, and we followed on with an excellent lunch at the Moors Inn.

Applications to our Conservation Award have continued to come in over the summer. Now that we run this scheme on an open-ended 'rolling' basis, it's gratifying to be able to help a range of different groups and projects across the Moors. A recent applicant was the 'Silver Seals' group of volunteers – mostly retired engineers – who work in the western area of the National Park to clear paths and improve stiles, making them safer by attaching non-slip strips to the treads. This was their second successful application – they did such a good job with their grant last year that we decided to support them again!

Other successful applicants have been Moor Sustainable to support their community apple-pressing and cider-making workshops in the Esk Valley and beyond, and the Ryedale Bridleways Group to purchase better catches for bridleway gates, making it easier for horse-riders – especially older and less agile people – to open and close gates from the back of their horse rather than needing to dismount.

If you know of a project which could benefit from small amounts of funding, by all means contact us for a chat about it or go to https://www.nyma.org.uk/awards/ .

Group walk in Baysdale

Ryedale Bridleways Group members in Rosedale

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (see page 15)

SCARBOROUGH TOWN

Anagram

1 winkles, 2 ibid, 3 Big Ben (Westminster Palace), 4 plant pot, 5 rupee, 6 stone masons, 7 remembering, 13 released, 16 wastage, 17 Apache, 19 niece, 22 spot

Down

1 Whitby Port, 8 tanning, 9 apple, 10 Nile, 11 rent, 12 Eve, 14 mashed, 15 cobweb, 18 sun, 20 espy, 21 Tsar, 23 neeps, 24 captain, 25 dead centre

Across

NYMA WALKS & EVENTS

Saturday 2 October
INGLEBY & BATTERSBY – 'QUICKER BY TRAIN?'

Meet 10.30 at Ingleby Greenhow village carpark, at the Battersby/eastern end of the village centre, banner for Dudley Arms cafe at entrance (NZ 582063, W3W: kings.swooning.ruins).
5 mile walk via Battersby Junction, Battersby and Bank Foot. Almost flat but some stiles and friendly cattle. Perhaps a cup of tea afterwards at the Dudley Arms!
Contact Wendy Smith (wpsmith7a@gmail.com) if you'd like to come.

Thursday 14 October
NYMA AGM

The AGM is at Cober Hill Hotel, Cloughton, Scarborough, starting at 3pm, following the National Park Societies conference (12-14 Oct). You can attend the full conference (special NYMA members rates apply), join us for the conference field-trips on the morning of the 14th and lunch before the AGM (small charge for the field-trips / lunch), or just come to the AGM (no charge). Details at https://www.nyma.org.uk/2021-conference/ or from Janet Cochrane on secretary@nyma.org.uk. Please let us know you're coming!

Saturday 6 November
LOOSE HOWE

Meet at the parking area on Knott Road 1.5 miles south-east of Rosedale Head (site of the Millennium Stone) (NZ 697012, W3W: defenders.unframed.castle).
Approx. 4.5 mile walk mainly on the moor top. North and then east over Glaisdale Moors, southeast towards Rosedale via Bronze Age round barrow, then a steep drop of 130m into Rosedale to the old railway line and a similar climb back to the moor top, and back to the start (the steep dip can be bypassed by following a level road back to the start).
Led by Dave & Cal Moore - 01287 669648 or membership@nyma.org.uk.

Saturday 4 December
CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Wainstones, Great Broughton TS9 7EW
Meet at 12.30 for a festive seasonal meal. Places are limited so please reserve yours with Wendy Smith on 01287 669104 or heathercolin67@gmail.com .

NYMA – PROTECTING THE NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS
www.nyma.org.uk
www.facebook.com/wildaboutthemoors/

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President Ian Carstairs OBE
Chairman Tom Chadwick
Vice Chairman Adrian Leaman
Executive Secretary Janet Cochrane – secretary@nyma.org.uk – 07570 112010
Treasurer Brian Pearce – brian.pearce11@btinternet.com
Membership Secretary Cal Moore – membership@nyma.org.uk – 01287 669648
Other Council Members Ray Clarke, Albert Elliot, Ann Glass, Dave Moore, Colin Speakman, George Winn-Darley, Elaine Wisdom
Walks Coordinator Heather Mather – 01287 669104
NYMA 4 Station Road, Castleton, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO21 2EG

The North Yorkshire Moors Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registration no. 1169240