

WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS SOCIETY

August Newsletter 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT, PETER RILEY

It is a real pleasure as I write this to be in the middle of a Summer worthy of the name although watering the garden is becoming a bit of a pain! As usual however we cannot rest on our laurels and we're gearing up for the next Winter Programme which is attached/enclosed. It features the usual range of talks from the local to the exotic but I wish, in particular, to draw to your attention the **autumn visit of BBC Natural History Presenter, Dr George McGavin** for what should be a memorable Christchurch evening which I hope you will support (details below). Please note the **Coach Trip this year is to Leighton Moss** and, if you have not visited before, I would urge you to please give it a try – you will not be disappointed.

Subscriptions

If you have not already paid your subscription please do so as soon as possible. I am sure you know how much we appreciate your support and we really do not want to lose you. Every subscription paid helps us to further our cause of promoting natural history in Wharfedale so I would be most grateful if you would stay on board. Thank you.

Treasurer

For a variety of reasons Michael Brear is no longer able to continue in this role, as a result of which **Jeff Davitt is taking over for the remainder of this financial year.** Many thanks to Michael for helping us out at a difficult time and to Jeff for taking over at short notice.

This is also the time to publicly express my huge **appreciation to Ian Watt for his seven year stint as Treasurer.** He has been a rock for us throughout his period in office ensuring we keep to the straight and narrow and promoting innovations to increase our efficiency and effectiveness. The Society is indebted to him and I am pleased that he is continuing on Committee for this year.



George McGavin Talk

I am delighted to be able to confirm that our Speaker for the Christchurch Evening Meeting of 23rd October will be Dr George McGavin. His talk will be entitled **'Tales from Television – Bringing the Natural World to your**

Living Room'. George has presented a number of BBC natural history classics such as 'Oak Tree: Nature's Greatest Survivor', 'Monkey Planet', 'Nature's Turtle Nursery...' and co-presented the Expedition series - 'Lost Land of the Volcano' etc. He is a regular natural history contributor to 'The One Show'.

His talk will be entertaining, humorous and insightful and this is very much an evening not to be missed.

To offset the cost of such a high-profile Speaker we are asking members to pay the modest sum of just £3. I hope we will fill Christchurch (230 seats) for this event with members only, but any tickets unsold by the end of the 25th September Indoor Meeting will go on general sale for £10.

Tickets: contact Karen Shackleton

First come first served - pre-order by email (karenshackleton@hotmail.com) or phone AFTER 6.30pm (07790707419) - and pay and collect at Indoor Meetings or on the night. **Or buy at the September meetings (or October if there are any left after they have gone on general sale!).**



Coffee Morning and Annual Dinner

You will notice that the Programme no longer features a Coffee Morning or an Annual Dinner not least because both events, whilst stalwarts in their time, have clearly been declining in popularity. In addition **Christine Hobson**, who has organised the events for many years, wishes to move on and this is therefore an appropriate time to call it a day. I would like to take this opportunity **on behalf of the Society to thank Christine for the magnificent effort** she has made in this regard over a long period of time.

Records

We very much do need you Sightings' records so please keep them coming. However as usual a plea from me to **get your records in to the Recorders as soon as possible** rather than leaving it all to the year end when they will be very busy writing their reports.



Bird Recording

Our current Recorder, Richard Fuller, is moving south so is having to relinquish this role. Many thanks to him for his extremely conscientious work in this role since 2014 – we are very grateful. We have been fortunate in securing two replacements for Richard namely **Catherine Burton, who will collate the records through the year, and Andrew Kelly, who will write the report for the Review.** Their contact details are on the Programme Card. Thank you to both of them.

Otley - The Wildlife Friendly Town

A new community group, Friends of Otley Wildlife, has been formed to progress the initiative to make Otley a "Wildlife Friendly Town" following widespread support in the town for the plan.

Its aims are to celebrate and improve awareness of Otley's rich natural environment. Otley could be the first place in the country to be known as a "wildlife friendly town".

The Friends group want to increase involvement in existing local wildlife groups and make people more aware of the value and benefits of helping local wildlife.

It is looking for more members to help take the plan forward and to encourage people and organisations in Otley to become more wildlife friendly.

Anyone interested in helping or wanting more information should email friendsofotleywildlife@gmail.com or contact Andrew McKeon on 07802 484155



Nature Reserves and Conservation

Ben Rhydding	Gallows Hill	Grass Wood	Otley Wetland	Sun Lane
Second Saturday of the month from 9-30am. Contact Steve Parkes on 01535 647220	First Tuesday of the month (10-00am) and last Sunday (10.30am). Contact Gordon Haycock on 01943 968112	Wednesdays and Saturdays* from 9-30am. Contact Audrey Gramshaw for dates* on 01943 872420	Third Saturday of every month and the first Thursday from October to March. 9.30am start. Contact Peter Riley	First Sunday (10am) and third Thursday (1.45pm) from October to March. Contact Peter Riley

New volunteers are always welcome at all our Reserves so do please think about joining us - apart from anything else it's great fun and very satisfying.

As always, on behalf of the Society (and our wildlife!), thank you for your support.

Peter