

**Recorders** – your sightings to the following please

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

**Bees, Wasps and Ants - Catherine Burton - 07825 687193**  
catherine.catwasp@gmail.com

**Birds - Phil Galtry—07969 121956** philgaltry@gmail.com

**Botany**  
- **Higher Plants, Ferns & Allies - Bruce Brown - 07397 093284** - brucenbrown3@gmail.com  
- **Bryophytes - Gordon Haycock - 01943 968112**  
gordon.haycock@haycockandjays.co.uk

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

**Dragonflies - David Alred - 01943 862930**  
joanalred@talktalk.net

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

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

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

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

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

## Birding

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

**Thur Apr 23** **St Aidan's RSPB Reserve**  
Meet/park 10am at the reserve car park SE399287 (parking free for RSPB members—more free parking available on Wood Lane). Small café at reserve but bring packed lunch if desired; this is a large reserve and you may get hungry when still a long way from the café! Finish around 1.30pm.  
Leader: Julian Creasey—07596 854698.

**Sun May 10** **Dawn Chorus**  
Meet/park Ilkley Lido SE118484 at 5am. We will walk up through Middleton Woods to the fields and moors above to experience the early morning sights and sounds of woodland, farmland and moorland birds. Finish around 7.30am. Bring breakfast/flask if required! **Weather-dependent; call leader to check the walk is on before setting your alarm!**  
Leader: Helen Steward—07760 883865

**Sun Jun 21** **Birdwatching on Ilkley Moor**  
Joint event with Friends of Ilkley Moor. Meet /park White Wells car park, SE116469 at 9am; will finish around 12 noon. Hoping for warblers, including willow warblers and blackcaps—potential also for cuckoo. We will use well-worn paths, but some are steep and rough in places.  
Leaders: Tracy Gray - 07780 535860 and Iain Manfield 07952 275440.

**Mon Jun 29** **Hebden Swifts**  
Swift Walk (with house martins and spotted flycatchers) around Hebden Village. Meet 8.15pm at Hebden Village Institute.  
Leaders Ros Lilley and Terry Flynn—07956 003498

## Improve Your Skills

**Thur Jun 11, Thur Jun 25; and Thur Sept 10** **Moth Trapping**  
Start times 9.30am Otley/Denton/Otley. Please email wharfedalemoths@gmail.com for location details and to confirm attendance.  
Leader: Aidan Smith 07712 156793

**Sun Jul 12** **Butterflies at Denton Reserve**  
A half day visit to Denton Reserve, meeting at 10am by the Old Dairy buildings on Smithy Lane SE145491. Please contact leader if planning to attend.  
Leader: Nyree Fearnley 07811 066971

**Thur Jul 16 Evening** **Nightjars for Beginners**  
For nightjar novices only. Meet 8.30pm. Directions: Half way up Norwood edge bank (B6451) on a sharp left turn, turn right on to a minor road signposted to Lindley. Head through a gate. By a sharp right hand bend by a gate, park up off road, SE225506. About two miles on good tracks & paths; may not finish until 10.30 pm approx. **10 places only: please contact Helen Steward on 07760 883865 to reserve your place.**  
Leader: Keith Wilson: 01943 968902

**15-16 Aug** **Small Mammal Survey with YMG: Denton Reserve**  
We will be setting traps in fairly rough ground at several locations. Walking boots and waterproofs recommended, or sun hats if we are lucky!  
**Numbers restricted to 12 people each day. Please contact leader if you would like to come along with your choice of day (Saturday or Sunday). Meeting times and locations will be provided to attendees before the event.**  
Leader: Ann Hanson 07713 333206  
Email: fieldwork@yorkshiremammalgroup.org.uk

**Tues Sept 8 Evening** **Bats about Ilkley**  
Meet/park at 7pm—venue to be confirmed nearer the time. Bring a torch. Weather dependent! - please contact leader to check if wet weather is forecast.  
Leader: Andrew Milne - 07908 475198.

## THE WHARFEDALE NATURALISTS SOCIETY



Registered Charity No 509241

## SUMMER 2026

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

**Vice President** - vacant

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

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

**Membership Team - Ros Lilley and Jenny Watson 07956 003498** - membership.wns@gmail.com

**Summer Programme Secretary - Helen Steward - 07760 883865** - helensteward57@gmail.com

**Winter Programme Secretary - Peter Riley - 01943 862916**—peter.b.riley@btinternet.com.

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

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

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

**Conservation and Education Officer —Steve Parkes—07770 840156**—parkes.steve@hotmail.co.uk

**Nature Notes Co-ordinator—Ian Brand— 07854 888206** - ian.nats1945@gmail.com

**Committee Member—Karen Shackleton—07790 707419**—karenshackleton@hotmail.com

WNS

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

## Tuesday Evening Nature Walks

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

**Meet at 7-00pm unless otherwise stated**

**Please car-share where possible!**

### May 5 Barden and Strid Wood

Come and look for pied flycatchers, redstarts, dippers, and more. Meet at Barden Bridge SE052574.

Leaders: Ros Lilley and Terry Flynn - 07956 003498

### May 12 East Wood (aka Weston Woods!) through a Forester's and Naturalist's Eyes

This walk will use the trees and flowers to illustrate 20,000 yrs of Pennine woodland history. Meet/park near the western end of Meagill Rise (from football hut upwards), Otley, SE187466.

Leader: Keith Wilson—01943 968902

### May 19 Invertebrate Evening at Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits

Learn about the invertebrates on the reserve and river. Pond dipping for aquatic invertebrates. Discover other insects, including daytime moths and grasshoppers. Nets and sampling trays provided. Parking in lay-by, on hard standing inside the gate, or in front of car wash SE143477.

Leader: Steve Parkes — 07770 840156

### May 26 Woodland Warble

Meet/park Heber's Ghyll SE099472 NB Some steep climbing! Possibility of spotted flycatcher, redstart or even wood warbler! - plus usual woodland species.

Leader: Karen Shackleton - 07790 707419

### Jun 2 Middleton Woods and Crabtree Gill

The focus of the walk will be mainly botanical, and will take in the western part of Middleton Woods to Crabtree Gill, continuing on Langbar Road and back via Curly Hill, passing the Stubham Oak. Meet/park Ilkley Lido car park, SE118484.

Leader: Bruce Brown—07397 093284

## Tuesday Evening Nature Walks continued

### Jun 9 Bradford Peregrines Fledge Watch

See juvenile Peregrine Falcons learning to fly and maybe even fledging! Meet/park Beamsley Road, Manningham, SE145348 (NB take care: there is another Beamsley Road in Frizinghall). **This location is also *provisional*—further information will be sent out by email if any change is envisaged.** Leader: Paul Wheatley—07753 803518

### Jun 16 Otley Swifts and Bats

**NB late start time 8pm**  
Come and see Otley's aerial nightlife! Meet/park the Buttercross, Market Square, Otley. SE201455. Parking available at Courthouse car park nearby. NB walk is linear, finishing at Wharfebank Business Park around 10pm. Leader: Richard Marsh 07743 900873 (phone/text).

### Jun 23 Otley Chevin Geology Trail

**NB Early start time 6pm**  
A chance to learn about the fascinating geology of the Chevin. A circular walk of 2 miles, mostly on marked paths, with some fairly steep sections and possibly muddy in places. Meet/park East Chevin Quarry CP SE212444. Duration approx. 2.5 hours.

**Numbers limited to 15—please contact Helen Steward on 07760 883865 to reserve your place.** Leader: Bill Fraser 07989 194025.

### Jun 30 Darwin in Ilkley

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

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

### Jul 14 Botany, Banter and Beer in Burley

Meet/park Sun Lane Nature Reserve SE157465. Opportunity for a drink and a chat to follow at the Queens Head pub in Burley-in-Wharfedale.

Leader: Ian Brand 07854 888206

## Summer Visits

### Sat May 9

#### Butterflies at Threshfield Quarry

This will be a full day looking for Spring butterflies, with the chance of Green Hairstreak. Bring packed lunch. Meet/park at 10am by the quarry entrance SD981638. Please contact leader if planning on coming. Leader: Nyree Fearnley 07811 066971

### Fri Jun 12

#### Grass Wood

Visit this unique area of woodland with experts from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. 2-3 miles on a rocky limestone path with some steeper sections: sturdy footwear required. Meet/park 10am, at the 4th gate entrance (follow Grass Wood Lane from Grassington to the far end of Grass Wood), SD980656. Please bring a packed lunch. Leaders: Becky Dennison 07467 990034 and Graham Standring 07795 644123

### Sat Jun 20

#### Botany and Birds at t' op of the Dale

A full day's circular walk, via Cray and Hubberholme/Yockenthwaite, with some climbing involved. Meet/park Buckden YDNP car park, 10am. Bring a packed lunch. Leaders: Ian Brand 07854 888206 and Helen Steward 07760 883865

### Tues Jul 7

#### Rodley Nature Reserve

Exclusive access to this marvellous reserve for an outing encompassing birding, entomology and botany. Meet 10am at reserve car park SE234365. Leaders: Peter and Barbara Murphy -0113 2930188.

### Sat Jul 11

#### A Family Fun Day at Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits

Discovering the plants, birds and animals at your local nature reserve.. Pond dipping, mini-beast hunt, nature trail and quiz. 10.30am to 2.30 pm. Parking at bottom car park at Moss & Moor, (SE142478) Leader: Steve Parkes - 07770 840156

### Sat Aug 1

#### Beekeeping

Meet/park 10.30am Ashlands Primary School, LS29 8JY  
Numbers limited to 10: please contact Helen Steward on 07760 883865 to reserve your place. Suits provided but bring wellies and Marigolds!  
Leader: Martin Johnson 07970 069247

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

**Apr 16 Bolton Abbey Estate—Cavendish to Strid Woods survey** Meet 10am Cavendish riverside CP SE078551  
Show Wharfedale Nats Programme on entry  
Leader: Mark Jeffrey/Bruce Brown

**Apr 23 Ilkley—Middletton Lodge and Owler Park**  
Meet 10am Old Bridge, roadside parking SE112481.  
Leaders: Sarah Ward and Heather Burrow

**May 7 Leathley Lane and Riffa Wood**  
Meet 10am Leathley, CP opposite church SE232470  
Leaders: Sarah Ward and Heather Burrow

**Jun 4 Appletreewick—Reynard's Gill and Paul's Meadow**  
Meet 10am, New Inn pub CP SE052601  
Lunch at pub (for parking permission), then to Paul's in pm  
Leader: Nyree Fearnley

**Jun 11 Hebden to Grassington Old Hospital Circular**  
Meet 10am, Hebden village, roadside parking SE026631  
Leader: Bruce Brown

**Jun 18 National Trust—Beckermonds Meadows and The Helks Pavement** Meet 10.30am, **but contact Bruce for final details a week before.**  
Leader: Bruce Brown

**Jun 25 Ilkley Darwin Gardens and adjacent moor survey**  
Meet 10am, Darwin Gardens CP SE117471  
Leader: Sue Stevens

**Jun 27 Tarn Moor, Cumbria** (jt with BBG) Meet/park 10.30am. Take M6 Tebay exit (junction 28) then B6260 towards Orton. Turn right just before the village, through Raisbeck, and then take unclassified road east towards Little Asby. Park at GR NY672074, close to a bridge. Leader: Neil Barratt

**Jul 16 Kilnsey Park Estate—Outgang Scar**  
Meet 10am Kilnsey Park CP SD974676  
Leader: Nyree Fearnley

**Jul 23 Wild Ingleborough—Ashes Pasture YWT survey**  
Joint meeting with Bradford Botany Group  
Meet 10.30am at reserve entrance SD776783. On B6479 N of Selside. Roadside parking SD777782 or if full at SD771789 (10 mins walk). Leader: Bruce Brown

