



# Newsletter

## JUNE 2014

### 2013 Report

Hopefully the all new, bigger size (B5) report will be worth waiting for; it's now in its final stages and shouldn't be too long before you get your hands on it. Look out for the cetacean feature, annual review, plant report etc. etc. and don't forget to let us know what you think about it.

Already the 2014 report records are being collated; the new report needs your material, photographs – birds, insects, mammals, habitat and Filey landscapes, illustrations – drawings or paintings, and articles on any Filey wildlife subject.

Please get in touch with Ian Robinson on 07908 647156.

### Parish Wood and the Tip

By the time you read this our cereal crop in the six acre field above the Tip will be ripening. Once cut, the field will be left as stubble for at least one year providing valuable winter feeding for the larks, buntings and partridges.

Ben Blackburn has now nine cows enjoying the lush grass in the cattle enclosure, please take care when walking through this field. Keep to the right hand side where there are two styles built into the fence line - just in case you need to escape from the sometimes boisterous beasts!

During late winter and early spring Roe Deer could be regularly found in both Parish Wood and the Tip, up to eight were recorded on a number of occasions. Brown Hares could also be seen scampering across the cattle enclosure, especially early in the breeding season. Shrikes, this time a male and female Red-backed were once again attracted to the Tip field, they certainly like the habitat there and it's now become an annual occurrence. The trees in Parish Wood planted in 1997, have exceeded all expectations; most of them initially struggling to survive in a thin layer of soil are now flourishing and growing fast. Selective felling took place during the winter months to allow light and space into the more crowded sections; further work will be done next winter.



Photo: Ian Robinson

Roe Deer at the tip

**Ian Robinson,**  
**Site Manager**

## The Cornfield Flowers Project



Photo: Jack Whitehead

Working the land

If anything has happened on our Rocket Pole plot since the last Newsletter it's done it quietly, plants are like that. The peasants in the field are looking for green shoots prior to planting out the seedlings which germinated in Filey greenhouses during the winter. The tall, pale stuff is Corncockle, attractive, successful and irresistible to Roe Deer; fortunately Shepherd's Needle seems to be not to her taste so this cracking little rarity is flowering well and so is Corn Buttercup. I reckon the real technicolour roadshow will begin in July, and in the meantime we are working on doubling the length of the strip for next season.

There is always something to do, so if you fancy yourself as an extra in Far from the Madding Crowd or would like a sneak look and can't

climb the gate, contact Jack for a key, ring 07870 341455 or mail [jackwhitehead@live.com](mailto:jackwhitehead@live.com).

## East Lea

Our most recent reserve, and the one that gets the fewest visitors. It's easy to reach, through the locked gate on Pasture Crescent, past the reedbed and through the two kiss-gates.

The hide is basic, peaceful and commands fine views. Volunteers are taking a break, but it won't last and after a Spring of path construction and tree planting we move on to an exciting new phase: pebbling the island to attract breeding Little Ringed Plovers.



Painting: Stanley Spencer, Separating Fighting Swans



Photo: John Ives

Bagging-up injured Swans

The Springs entertainment came in the form of swan wrestling, with the Swan Rescue boys trying to emulate Stanley Spencer's depiction. An injured Mute was duly rounded up and bagged, along with his less keen, perfectly healthy mate and they are spending a bit of time inland.

## .....meanwhile, over the hill at Filey Dams

The photographers have been enjoying the action; if it's dull you get Dunnock but on one or two days recently (and one in particular) it's been special: Spoonbill and Night Heron vying for attention as they discussed the best route back to the Continent.



Photo: Mike Day

Spoonbill



Photo: Mike Day

Black-crowned Night Heron



Photo: Mike Day

Bank Vole

The breeding Barn Owl laid six eggs this year, five have hatched, which might explain why one of the adults sits in the next door bush. If results from our monthly mammal traps are a guide, they are not going to have problems feeding young; record numbers of Bank Vole and Wood Mouse are queuing to get in the traps.

Spectators are always welcome at these traps, well behaved kids are welcome and there is sometimes an opportunity to handle the more docile animals. Details are published on the News page of the Group web-site, the next session is on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July. Contact Jack Whitehead on 07870 341455.

With all this going on it's easy to forget the Tree Sparrows, thriving where they probably should be struggling, every year they, and their chums, consume 15 million seeds. Your membership fee paid for 867,000 seeds, don't ask me how I worked it out. And if you ever wondered how the hide floor stays so clean, or where the seed comes from, it's down to Terry Entwhistle, who supplies most of it, and Enid Turnbull, who diligently, quietly, sweeps up the spilt stuff. Heroes, the pair of 'em.

## An update from Mark, our Communications Officer.....

### Events

### *The second annual Woodcock Festival – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2014*

FBOG's mini music festival returns! Once again we'll be taking over the Bandstand in the Crescent Gardens on Filey seafront for several hours of fine live music from folk-based & semi-acoustic acts,

and there'll be stalls and FBOG merchandise for sale on the day. Live music from 12 to 2.30pm, free of charge and open to all. A special talk follows in the evening, and Member's Day the following day, partly to allow those interested to combine all of the events – why not stay all weekend and enjoy both days?



Photo: George Stoye

Woodcock 2013

***Evening Talk – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> August 2014***  
***'Filey Bird Observatory – a vital pitstop on a migration highway'***



Photo: Mark Pearson

Migrant Firecrest

Hosted by our friends the Filey Bay Initiative, I'll be giving a free talk about Filey's place in a national and international context, explaining why our area is so important for migratory birds. Free of charge and open to all. Starts 7pm at the Evron Centre Conference Room, John Street, Filey.

## ***FBOG Members Day – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014***

As previously mentioned, we've been putting together a member's day for the summer - to thank FBOG's supporters for their continued support, to enjoy a range of wildlife at close quarters, and to give us all an excuse to get together. We're happy to report the schedule is now finalised (see below), with all activities at **Filey Dams** unless stated otherwise.

Note that this is a members-only event and that the limited places require **advance booking** (on a first-come, first-served basis). All events are FREE to members. If you would like to attend, please contact me at [mpearson@fbog.co.uk](mailto:mpearson@fbog.co.uk) with your name and a contact telephone number.

### **0900 – 1030hrs - Small mammal trapping**

Expect very close views of Filey's more secretive locals as FBOG's mammal surveyors reveal the contents of their traps. Cameras recommended!

### **0900 – 1200hrs - Bird-ringing**

Our ringing team will have nets up at the Dams between these times and will demonstrate bird ringing at close quarters. The ringers will be in radio contact with other event leaders to ensure no-one misses out!

### **1100 – 1300hrs - Bird-watching sessions**

The cream of FBOG's birders will be in the hides to show members the best of the birds on the reserve, with telescopes and field guides on hand.

### **1100 – 1300hrs – Pond, plants, dragons and more**

FBOG's all-rounders will be permanently stationed by the Bur-marigold Pond, identifying flowers, butterflies, dragonflies and more (as well as dipping into the water for hidden delights). Members can move between here and the bird hides at will.

### **1200-1300hrs – East Lea guided walk**

A guided walk led by local experts to our East Lea reserve, five minutes walk from Filey Dams. The walk will last approx one hour.

### **1830 – 2030hrs - Bird-ringing**

The ringing team will be back for a late evening session.

### **2030 – 2230 – Moths, Bats, Herptiles and more.....**

Join in with a range of activities as we go all-out after dark at the Dams. We'll be running two moth traps, where our moth experts will catch and identify a variety of species. As dusk falls we'll be using detectors on a Bat walk around the reserve, and after dark, our Herp specialists will turn on their torches in pursuit of newts, frogs, toads and more.

In the case of particularly poor weather, one or more events may be postponed or cancelled up to 24 hours before time. Please check with me prior to travelling.

## ***World Shorebirds Day – 6th & 7th September 2014***

FBOG are proud to be participating in World Shorebirds Day, held over the weekend of 6th / 7th September. Check the website nearer the time for details of involvement, but expect full coverage and an expert presence at the Dams, East Lea, the Brigg and the Bay!

## ***Spurn Migration Festival – 6th - 8th Sep 2014***

Thanks to our generous friends at [Yorkshire Coast Nature](#), FBOG will have a key presence at this year's 'Migfest', represented by group members and a stall for info, membership and merchandise. Drop by and say hello and buy an exclusive T-shirt...

## **Surveys**

### ***Breeding Bird Survey***

An important part of any Observatory is of course the surveys upon which population trends can be monitored and conservation decisions can be taken. With this in mind, we began a Breeding Bird

Survey (BBS) this spring, with a small band of dedicated volunteers recording Filey's breeding birds over a fair percentage of the recording area. We hope to set a baseline by which we can start to measure how our breeders are faring in the future, and we'll be publishing full results and analysis in the *2014 FBR* and also on the website. We're hoping to consolidate and expand the survey next year, and any volunteers are most welcome – feel free to contact me at [mpearson@fbog.co.uk](mailto:mpearson@fbog.co.uk).

## ***House Martin Survey***

Spring 2014 also saw the launch of a House Martin survey in the town. A familiar yet decreasing species locally and nationally, House Martins are a visible and easily found presence in our built environment, and by asking for help from the public, we're connecting with the local community and hopefully encouraging more interest at a local level. If you live in Filey, or visit regularly during the breeding season, please do report any House Martin breeding activity – details are on the website, or email me directly. Results will be published later in the year via the website, and a full article will appear in the next Bird Report.



**Photo: Mike Day**

**House building**

## **Website**

Our online presence continues to flourish, with the FBOG website receiving an average of 10,000 views a month – a fantastic reach, and a clear indication of where and how people are finding and connecting with us. Feedback from members continues to be very positive and there are more developments on the way, so keep checking back.

**Mark Pearson**  
**Communications Officer**

## **Ringling Week 2014**

This annual event will take place again this year from **Saturday 11 October** through to **Saturday 18 October**.

Last year we were plagued by bad weather, after some good years, and we had moved last year's week forward. This year we have returned to the usual week in October (2<sup>nd</sup> week) and hope that we can improve on 2013 – which will not be hard!!! Saying that there was some good days last year even though the bird numbers were low, we had a good team and a few visiting ringers and individual birders and groups to keep spirits high.

Everyone is welcome to come and watch the events again this year and if you have time maybe get involved in helping to keep the records updated. Not only is there ringing but we also keep a

constant watch for visible migration and this should be the time when thrushes and geese arrive back in the UK for the winter.

If you need any further information contact Peter Dunn on [pjd@fbog.co.uk](mailto:pjd@fbog.co.uk)



Photo: Pete Dunn

Target species..Yellow-browed Warbler

**Pete Dunn**  
**Ringing Officer**

## **A Dam fine evening for Owls**



Photo: Chris Hansell

Quite a handful

On the evening of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May a visit was made to the Dams by Dan Lombard, Lucy Murgatroyd and I with a view to check the nest boxes and ring any available pulli after which it was also my intention to check the Owl box. By the time we got around to the Owl box Lucy had had to leave due to prior commitments.

The walk to the box was made much easier now that the dividing fence has been taken down and so we were soon at the base of the box and checking around for any pellets. The ladder was put in position and I climbed up to open the inspection door, at which point the female left via the entrance. This was a surprise as usually adult birds leave as soon as they feel the ladder touch the pole!

Inside were five young pulli, varying in size, and one un-hatched egg. Four of the five were ringed, see attached photo, the runt being too small to take a ring. All appeared to be in good health and the floor was covered in a good quantity of pellets, an un-eaten Short-tailed Field Vole was also found inside. Initial reports from the Somerset Levels indicate that this is a good year for Barn Owls, as prey species appear to be peaking, so it will be interesting to see how many of the pulli survive to fledging and beyond.

I took half a dozen pellets for one of my volunteers on the moor as she is doing a dissertation on Barn Owl diet in differing areas as part of her BSc (Hons) in Countryside Management. When I get the results back from her I will pass these on to Jack for inclusion in the records.

**Chris Hansell**

**This Newsletter is a forum for members to exchange experiences and put forward new ideas....**



**..it's also a chance** to swap, sell or buy unwanted natural history themed kit, books etc.

As a start, how about a small donation to FBOG for this tripod harness (hardly used) Contact Jack on 07870 341455.

The next Newsletter goes to press in late-September, possibly followed by another before Christmas, any comments, notes, articles, photos or sale items would be welcome.

## **U3A Natural History Group**

On moving to Filey late last year I found what I considered to be a gap in the market for people like me who loved nature and lacked id skills. It soon became clear that FBOGs role is as an observatory, and trips and outings were not on offer and that was not going to change. A friend had suggested starting a U3A Bird Watching group however the U3A Chairman, Anthony Stroish made it clear that he did not wish to start anything that he felt was in competition with established local groups.

I joined U3A in January and soon after discussed with Jack Whitehead and Sue Hull the possibility of a new Bird Watching group. Both felt that this was a good idea and complementary to FBOG

rather than competition. However, Sue suggested that a Natural History group may be better as it would allow us to cover a wider spectrum of nature in and around Filey. Both Jack and Sue offered their future support and advice along with their encouragement to get started as soon as possible.

After fast tracking through the U3A system Janet Pell and I (Hilary Atkins) became the joint leaders of the new group. None of us feel we are experts in anything; our only membership requirement is curiosity. The plan is that we get together once a month to look at things, share knowledge and guides and generally have fun whilst expanding our knowledge of natural history in the Filey area.

On 14 May 2014 the sun shone on 15 of us on our first outing to Filey Dams. The barn owl sat and posed, coot and mallard chicks provided the aaaahhhh factor and we managed to id some plants and birds. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful morning.

Future outings include Carr Naze, Church Ravine, beach/Brigg area, Parish Wood, and ringing week. We already have 16 on the books (including leaders) and will close numbers at 20.

**Hilary Cunningham-Atkins**

## **STOP PRESS**

A future date for your diaries (so you can plan ahead) is that of the **2014 FBOG AGM** which will take place on the afternoon of **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. Further details will follow in the next Newsletter.

**Sue Hull**  
**Secretary**



**Yorkshire**  
**Wildlife Trust**

This project is supported by  
**THE CROWN**  
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## You Can Help Save our Seas from **WAVES of WASTE**

Marine litter is currently one of the biggest threats to our marine environment and is increasing globally at a phenomenal rate. It affects wildlife through entanglement, ingestion and contamination by poisoning marine food chains. You could help reduce these threats and join the fight to keep your coastline clean.

### **FILEY BEACH CLEANS SUMMER 2014**

Sunday 29 June, Saturday 9 August, Saturday 20 September. All at 10:00

#### **LOCATION:**

Bottom of Martins Ravine junction with Royal Parade

All welcome—litter pickers & bags provided ; bring gloves if you have some

#### **Contacts:**

Hilary—Filey\_Flora\_and\_Fauna@outlook.com OR

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Living Seas livingseas@ywt.org.uk phone 01904 659570.

[www.ywt.org.uk](http://www.ywt.org.uk)

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