

CLEVELAND NATURALISTS'

FIELD CLUB



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume 13 Part 4

Spring 2026

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THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2025-2026

President	Mark Stokeld, 38 Ash Grove, Kirklevington, Yarm, TS15 9NQ
Vice-president	Jo Scott, Tethers End, Hartburn Village, Stockton, TS18 5DR
Secretary	Jo Scott, Tethers End, Hartburn Village, Stockton, TS18 5DR
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Membership Secretary	Jo Scott, Tethers End, Hartburn Village, Stockton, TS18 5DR
Programme Secretary	Neil Baker, 9 Glaisdale Court, Darlington, DL3 7AD
Immediate Past President	Jo Scott, Tethers End, Hartburn Village, Stockton, TS18 5DR
Ordinary Members	Daphne Aplin.

Membership Details

The Club seeks to promote an interest in all branches of natural history and to assist members in finding out about the living things that they see in the countryside around them. The present membership includes those who have particular interests in birds, insects, slugs and snails, lichens, fungi, flowering plants and seashore life. New members with interests in any fields of natural history would be very welcome.

In spring and summer there are evening, half-day and whole-day visits to investigate the natural history of a particular area. During the winter months there is a series of meetings held in the Marton Community Centre, Cypress Road, Middlesbrough TS7 8PZ. If you have any difficulty getting to this venue, please speak to any committee member and we will see if we can arrange a lift for you. A meeting usually takes the form of a talk given by a club member or visiting speaker. The annual subscription is £10.

Members are entitled to attend meetings of two affiliated organisations:

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

Details are available from our website <http://clevelandnats.org.uk/>

President's Address 2025 - 2026

Like last year I have some sad news to report. Two of our longer standing members passed away during the year, Dorothy Thompson, a previous President and always a bright spark at meetings and Ruth Waterton who died after a short stay in hospital following a fall at home. We will miss both of them. Their obituaries are a separate item in these Proceedings.

During the summer the club attended a number of events the aim of which was to raise our profile with the general public and within the conservation scene. We attended the Tees Valley Nature Conference at the National Trust's Ormesby Hall on the Friday 26th September where we had our stand illustrating/showing the work we do. Again I think we made some useful contacts. I also attended a meeting held to discuss various aspects of the upcoming work the Environment Agency will be doing at Greatham Creek in order to raise the sea wall and create new intertidal areas. This was held at RSPB Saltholme and included the RSPB's ecologist, The Teesmouth and Durham Bird Club representatives and other interested parties. Part of the discussion centered on trying to preserve the ecology of the slag topping on the present sea defences.

We are now nearing the end of our winter programme which again has produced some interesting and informative talks. Jo Scott gave the first talk of the year entitled 'Glimpses of Nature.' Our second talk in October was by Tony Daniels who showed us his methods and techniques for both macro and extreme macro photography. Finally, our last talk of 2024 was by Ian Bond, well known to us, on small animals.

Our first talk of 2026 was by Tony Wardhaugh on Woodlands of North-east Yorkshire. February's talk will be given by Richard Baines on the North Yorkshire Turtle Dove Project. This is a talk I think will be of great interest as the Turtle Dove has experienced a catastrophic fall in its population. Following on from our contacts with The Environment Agency the agencies Chris Hood will give us a talk on the Tees Tidal Project.

Our summer 2025 programme commenced in March with a visit to Farndale followed in April by trips to Hackfall Wood, Masham and Sinnington near Pickering. Our fourth walk of the year was to Moorsholm.

We enjoyed the early spring sunshine with lots of spring flowers and butterflies, especially good numbers of Brimstone. The final outing in April was to Baal Hill Wood, Wolsingham owned by the Woodland Trust: an ancient woodland with a sentinel oak – the Bishop's Oak. In May we visited Hawnby Crag in the North York Moors where there is a colony of the Duke of Burgundy butterfly. A Cuckoo was heard and seen. Jo Scott led us on a walk at Jervaulx Abbey. Daphne Aplin led a short walk around Fairy Dell, in Marton on 21st May.

In June we had a walk around Stewart Park, the highlight of which was watching House Martins collecting mud for their nests. Our next outing was to Foxrush Farm, a community woodland next to Redcar. The end of June saw a visit to Hurworth Burn and in early July we again visited the Billingham Beck Country Park. A very interesting walk in the Norton Substation area was hosted by Martin Allen which was a complement to his talk on 'Finding England's Ancient Grasslands'. Other July outings were to Ripon City Wetlands and RSPB Saltholme. August took us to a very parched Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Staveley Nature Reserve. A joint meeting with the Yorkshire Dragonfly Group at Birkdale Farm in August was where we encountered Willow Emerald Damselfly for the

first time, a recently colonising Zygoptera. A final outing in October took us to Greta Bridge on a fungus foray with the North East Fungus Study Group.

We now have 175 followers on our X (Twitter) account so we do reach a wider audience than just our talks and outings. We now have set up a Blue Sky account (@clevelandnats.bsky.social) and a Facebook page so our presence on social media is much greater than it used to be. Finally I would like to thank the committee and officers and other willing helpers, especially Jo Scott (secretary), Daphne Aplin, Hazel Stokeld (treasurer) Tony Wardhaugh (Proceedings) and Dave Barlow for the web site.

Mark Stokeld

Acknowledgements and Note to Contributors

The editor would like to thank all those who have contributed to the current issue of the Field Club Proceedings.

Contributions can include scientific articles, records, historical or biographical articles, poems, artwork, in fact anything which documents or celebrates natural history in Cleveland. These can be sent in at any time of year.

For the Spring issue in any year please send contributions by 1st March.

For electronic submissions please:

- use either MS Word or Pages, including for any tables (please do not submit tabulated information as a spreadsheet). Alternatively, send text in the body of an e-mail.
- avoid using any paragraph formatting and line spacing other than single.
- send any images as separate .jpg files with the caption as a separate Word or Pages file. These are always most welcome.
- when naming species provide the vernacular name, where a widely used one exists, followed by the appropriate scientific name in italics and bracketed. If no vernacular name exists please provide just the scientific name in italics.
- Send to tonyandmoirawardhaugh2@gmail.com

Where electronic submission is not possible:

Please post hand-written or typed articles to Dr A A Wardhaugh, 13 Captain Cook's Crescent, Marton, Middlesbrough TS7 8NN.

Obituary

Dorothy Thompson

Dorothy Thompson was a very good friend to the club for many years and was President from 2000 to 2003. Her hospitality was renowned when she hosted the Club's Committee Meetings at her home and 'garden parties' for members at the end of some of our outings. She was always cheerful, friendly and welcoming.

Dorothy and her husband Norman were happily married for 67 years, marrying on Valentines Day in 1952. They had three daughters.

Together with her husband Norman, himself a committed naturalist, botanist and member of the club, she gave us some lovely lectures based on their holidays and interests and Norman, with Dorothy's help, recorded all of the UK saxifrages.



Obituary Ruth Waterton

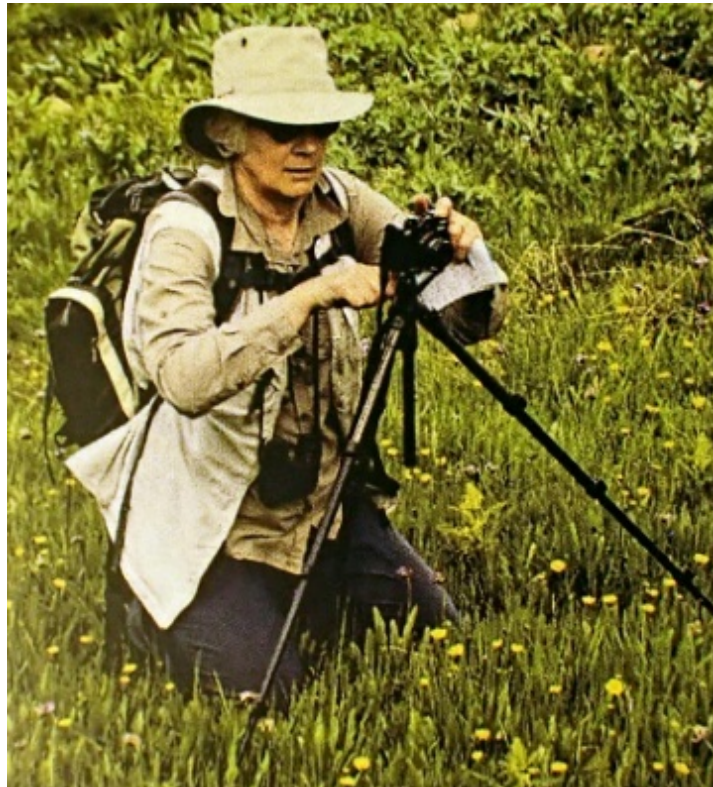
Ruth Waterton was a highly valued member of CNFC for many years and as a superb botanist contributed a lot to the work of the club. Ruth also belonged to other botanically based local societies where she also shared her expertise.

Together with her husband Peter they led many field outings to places like Tranmire Bogs, Ellerbeck, Broomfleet Washlands, Duncombe Park, Potteric Carr and Nosterfield Nature Reserves, Bransdale and Wheldrake Ings when they would happily share their combined knowledge on butterflies, plants and birds with other club members.

Several of their field trips were to lesser known sites that were new to the club, which meant that others were able to enjoy them too for the first time and benefit from their excellent local awareness of what was likely to be found and where.

Ruth and Peter were often speakers at our winter indoor meetings, making a superb double act, sharing their natural history-based holidays to places like Cyprus, Bulgaria, Turkey, Anatolia, Northern Greece, and the Danube Delta. On other occasions they focussed their talks on their interests nearer home such as flowers, birds, butterflies, dragonflies and moths of the North York Moors.

Ruth will be sadly missed in the club.



Highlights of 2025 Field Meetings

Wednesday 26th March 10:30 am. Farndale (SE673952)

Leader, Andy Astbury

Wednesday 2nd April 10:30 am. Sinnington (SE744858)

Leader, Neil Baker

Thanks to Mark Stokeld for the following images:



River Seven, Sinnington village



Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)



Hawthorn Shieldbug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*)



Tapioca Slime Mould (*Brefeldia maxima*)

Wednesday 9th April 10:30 am. Hackfall Wood, Masham (SE231775)
Leader, Neil Baker

Saturday 19th April 10:30 am. Moorsholm (NZ689139)
Leader, Andrew Ferguson

Thanks to Mark Stokeld for the following images. The two beetles were associated with a dead mole.



Carrion Beetle (*Oiceoptoma thoracicum*)

Burying Beetle
(*Nicrophorus vespilloides*)





Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*)

Wednesday 23rd April 10:30 am. Rosedale Head (SE683989)**Leader, Tony Wardhaugh**

Seven members attended this meeting on a mostly sunny day but with a chilly breeze from the north. From the car park at the top of Church Houses Bank we walked round Rosedale Head as far as Reeking Gill (NZ6800) where we ate lunch before returning by the same route. We had hoped to see Ring Ousels, notably in the Reeking Gill area, but none at all were encountered during the walk.

Of note were the many Green Hairstreak butterflies (*Callophrys rubi*) seen both in flight and at rest on ling by the track all around Rosedale Head; up to four were visible at any one time.

Records for the day:

Common Name	Scientific name	Notes
Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	In flower by car park
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	In flower by car park
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.	In flower by car park
Bulbous Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	In flower by car park
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	In flower
Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	In flower
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Two, overhead
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Numerous
Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus scotica</i>	Numerous
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Several, calling
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	One, overhead
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Several singing
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	One
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	A pair
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	A pair
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	One
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Tadpoles in a small pool
Large Black Slug	<i>Arion ater ater</i>	Widespread
Slippery Snail	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	One shell NZ68130038

A carrion beetle	<i>Phosphuga atrata</i>	Two, on the track SE68309945
Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>	A few, widespread
Heather Beetle	<i>Lochmaea suturalis</i>	One, by track NZ67970076
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Many, widespread
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	A few
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	One
a centipede	<i>Lithobius melanops</i>	NZ68130038
a harvestman	<i>Nemastoma bimaculatum</i>	NZ68130038

Thanks to Moira Wardhaugh for the following images:



Rosedale Head



Pond at Rosedale



Green Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela campestris*)



Large Black Slug (*Arion ater ater*)

***Large Black Slug*
(*Arion ater ater*)
Showing the distinctly
tripartite sole typical
of many upland individuals**





Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*)

Wednesday 30th April 10:30 am. Baal Hill, Wolsingham (NZ077379)

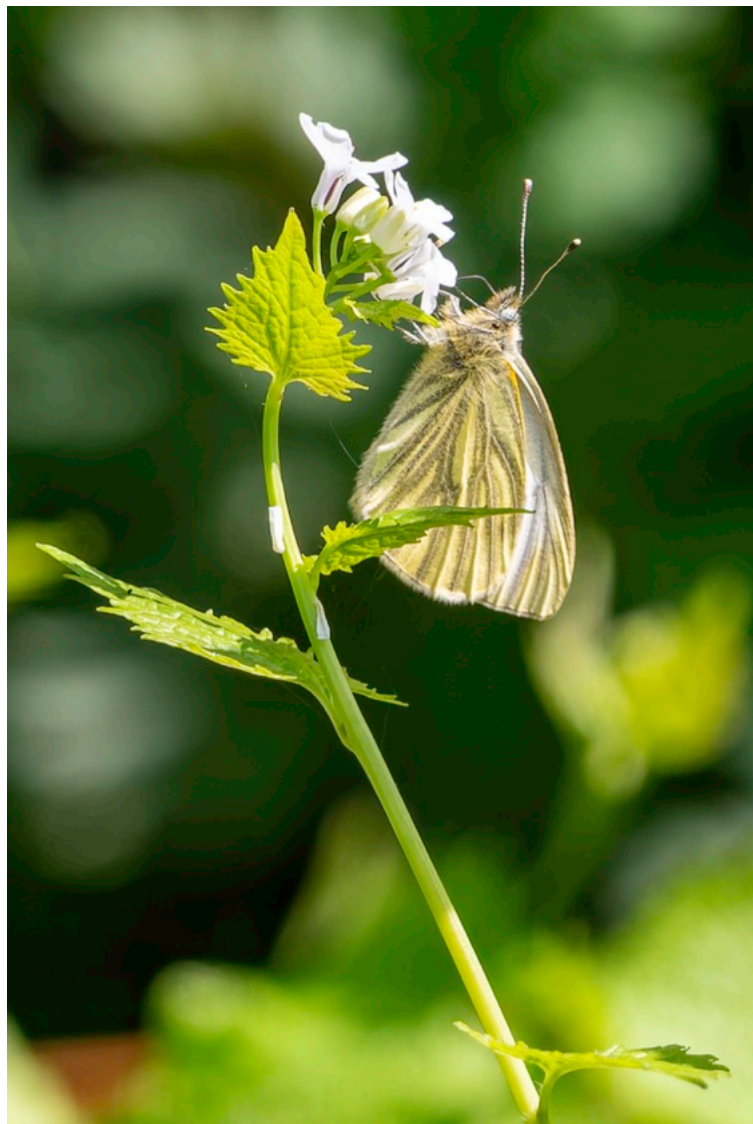
Leader, Mark Stokeld

Situated near Wolsingham in Co. Durham this is a Durham Wildlife Trust reserve. It is a surviving relic of ancient woodland originally owned in the fourteenth century by the Bishops of Durham. At its centre there is the veteran Bishop's Oak. Bluebells and Wild Garlic were in flower. Neither Pied Flycatcher nor Redstart were seen at the time of our visit but the latter may have been heard. Baal Hill is a SSSI.



The Bishop's Oak, Baal Hill

**Green-veined White
(*Pieris napi*)**



Wednesday 7th May 10:30 am. Hawnby Hill (SE540917)**Leader, Mark Stokeld**

Hawnby Hill or Crag is situated near the Osmotherley to Hawnby road in the North Yorkshire Moors. The crag is an erosional outlier of the lower calcareous grit formation of the Jurassic and holds a small colony of the Duke of Burgundy (its foodplant, Primrose, is common there) as well as other species such as Green Hairstreak, Small Copper, Dingy Skipper and Green-veined White. Common Lizard and Slow Worm are also common. At the time of visiting there were good numbers Green Tiger Beetles (*Cicindela campestris*), Dor Beetles (*Anaplotrupes stercorosus*) and Heather Beetles (*Lochmaea suturalis*). In addition a single ground beetle (*Carabus problematicus*) was found amid Ling. Of the land snails found the most notable were two live Lapidary Snails (*Helicigona lapicida*), present on a derelict dry-stone wall (SE5388190842). This is now an uncommon species in North-east Yorkshire currently known from only two other sites and not recorded at Hawnby Hill since 1884. The star of the show was a male calling Cuckoo on top of the crag:





Duke of Burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*)



Lapidary Snail (*Helicigona lapicida*)

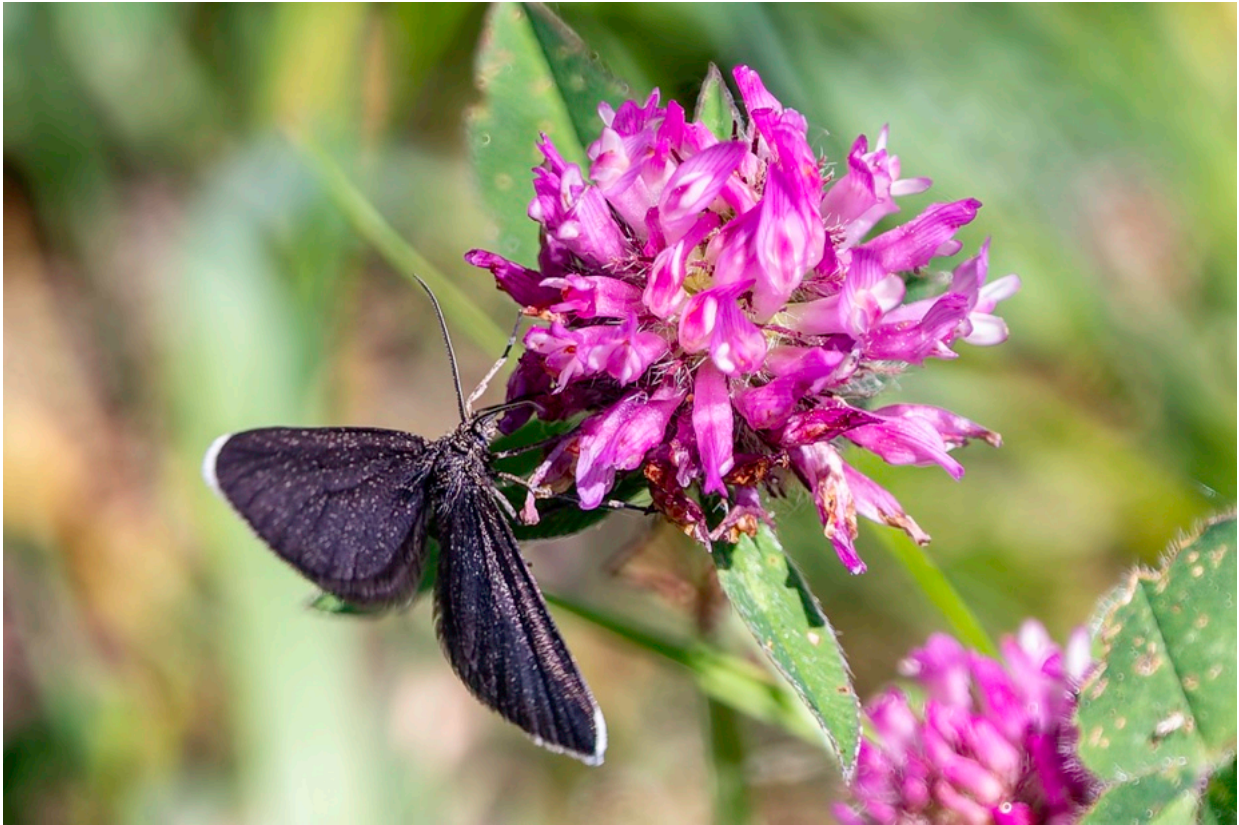


**Longhorn Moth (*Nematopogon swammerdamella*)
(Image by Moira Wardhaugh)**

Sunday 11th May 10:30am. Jervaulx Abbey (SE168857)
Leader, Jo Scott

Thanks to Mark Stokeld for the following images:





Chimney Sweeper (*Odezia atrata*)



Small Yellow Underwing (*Panemeria tenebrata*)

Wednesday 14th May 10:30 am. North Cave Wetlands (SE886328)

Leader, Andrew Ferguson

Wednesday 21st May 10:30 am. Fairy Dell (NZ512146)

Leader, Daphne Aplin

A cool, rather windy day saw eleven members gather in this pleasant park. The plan had been to look for Adder's Tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) which we had seen there a few years ago but the grass had been cut and the ground was very dry and cracked. The Silver Birch trees in the entrance were host to a few leafhopper nymphs. There wasn't much insect activity apart from a Silver-ground Carpet Moth (*Xanthorhoe montanata*) and a few Nettle Tap Moths (*Anthophila fabriciana*). There were a few bees buzzing about one of which was a Tree Bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*).

I think Derek was the only one to spot a Speckled Wood Butterfly (*Pararge aegeria*)!

Other Insects noted were:

Scorpion Fly - *Panorpa* sp.

Harmonia axyridis - Harlequin Ladybird

Mirid bugs - *Closterotomus norwegicus* x 2

Beetle - *Pyrochroa serraticornis* – a smart Red-headed Cardinal Beetle

On a recce of the site on the 1/5/2025 I saw a mating pair of *Tipula vittata* (Craneflies):

2 x Male *Harpocera thoracica* (Mirid bugs): A *Byrrhus* sp. (Beetle) and a few Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*) and Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) Butterflies.



Tree Bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*)

Sunday 1st June 10:30 am. Cow Green Reservoir (NY810309)

Leader, Mark Stokeld

Wednesday 4th June 2:00 pm. Stewart Park (NZ517166)

Leader, Jo Scott



House Martins (Image by Mark Stokeld)

Sunday 15th June 11:00 am. Saltburn (NZ668216)

Leader, Jo Scott

The following is a list of species that we found whilst rock-pooling at Saltburn Scar.

- Actinia equina* – (Beadlet Anemone)
- Anomia ephippium* – (Saddle Oyster)
- Ansates pellucida* – (Blue-rayed Limpet)
- Asterias rubens* – (Common Starfish)
- Botryllus schlosseri* - (Colonial Ascidian)
- Cancer pagarus* – (Edible Crab)
- Carcinus maenas* – (Shore Crab)
- Chondrus crispus* – (Irish Moss)
- Corella eumyota* (Solitary sea-squirt)
- Corralina officinalis* – (Coral Weed)
- Dumontia contorta* – (red alga)

Electra pilosa – (bryozoan)
Fucus serratus – (Saw Wrack)
Fucus vesiculosus – (Bladder Wrack)
Gibbula cineraria – (Grey Topshell)
Laminaria digitata – (Oarweed)
Leathesia marina – (Punctured Ball Weed)
Lepidochitona cinerea (chiton)
Lineus longissimus – (Bootlace Worm)
Littorina littorea – (Common Winkle)
Membranipora membranacea– (Sea Mat – bryozoan)
Mytilus edulis (Common Mussel)
Nerophis lumbriciformis (Worm Pipefish)
Nucella lapillus – (Dog Whelk and eggs)
Ophiothris fragilis – (Common Brittle Star)
Oshurkovia littoralis – (bryozoan)
Osmundia pinnatifida – (Pepper Dulse)
Pagurus bernhardus – (Hermit Crab)
Patella vulgata – (Common Limpet)
Porphyra sp. – (Purple Laver)
Potamaceros triqueter – (tube worm)
Psammechinus miliaris – (Green Sea Urchin)
Pisidia longicornis – (Long-clawed Porcelain Crab)
Saccharina latissima – (Sugar Kelp)
Semibalanus balanoides – (Northern Barnacle)
Tritia incrassata (Thick-lipped Dog Whelk)
Ulva intestinalis – (Gutweed)
Ulva lactuca – (Sea Lettuce)

Saddle Oysters
(*Anomia ephippium*)



Dog Whelk (*Nucella lapilus*) and eggs



Sugar Kelp (*Laminaria latissima*)



Green Sea Urchin (*Psammechinus miliaris*)
(Image by Moira Wardhaugh)



Chiton (*Lepidochitona cinerea*)
(Image by Moira Wardhaugh)

Sunday 22nd June 10:30 am. Hannah's Meadow (NY929187)**Leader, Mark Stokeld**

This is a Durham Wildlife Trust reserve, formerly owned and farmed by Hannah Hauxwell. It is an upland hay meadow and grazing pasture which has been least improved and contains a highly diverse plant assemblage. It contains Ragged Robin, Wood-Crane's-bill, Marsh Marigold, Yellow-rattle, and Adder's-tongue Fern. Rare species such as Globeflower and Moonwort are also present.

During the visit a soldier beetle was found and photographed by Daphne Aplin. This proved to be the Nationally Scarce *Rhagonycha elongata*, identification being confirmed by Michael Geiser (Coleoptera curator, Natural History Museum, London) who provided the following comment:

This seems to be a cold-loving species, potentially threatened by climate change. It is recorded mostly from Scotland (Cairngorms in particular), the northern Pennines and northern Wales, with only few scattered (and mostly old) records elsewhere.



Hannah's Meadow



Rhagonycha elongata
(Image by Daphne Aplin)

Thanks to Daphne Aplin for the following records:

Beetles:

Two-spot Ladybird *Adalia bipunctata*

A soldier beetle *Rhagonycha elongata* “Nationally Scarce”

Butterfly:

Large White Butterfly larva *Pieris brassicae*

Hemiptera:

Liocoris tripustulatus

Plagiognathus arbustorum

Closterotomus norwegicus

Spider: *Tetragnatha* sp.

Harvestman: *Mitopus morio*

Grasshopper nymphs

Cranefly larva: Tipulidae

Non biting midge - *Procladius* female

Wednesday 25th June 10:30 am. Foxrush Community Woodland (NZ592233)**Leader, Daphne Aplin**

It is eleven years since the group visited this wood so we thought it would be interesting to have a look to see how it had flourished. Eleven members gathered on a warm, if somewhat cloudy day to explore. Before we left the car park a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly was seen and also the larvae of *Agelastica alni* the Alder Leaf Beetle on the leaves of an Alder which proved a good start. We followed the main track which was bordered by a good mix of trees. Jo discovered a white “sputnik” shaped egg cocoon of the Spider *Paidiscura pallens*. This track led us into an open meadow and it was delightful to see butterflies emerging as the sun made an appearance. Andy pointed out a small spider (*Larinioides cornutus*) wrapping a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly up in silk. We decided to make use of the picnic tables and have lunch here and enjoy the scene. At the end of the walk there was a bank of flowers where we saw hoverflies, flies, beetles and a single Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet Moth (*Zygaena lonicerae*) nectaring on Knapweed.

Butterflies:- Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*): Large White (*Pieris brassicae*): Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*): Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*): Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)

Moths:- Nettle-tap (*Anthophila fabriciana*): Timothy Tortrix (*Aphelia paleana*): Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet (*Zygaena lonicerae*)

Birds:- Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): Magpie (*Pica pica*): Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Trees:- Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*): Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*): Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*): Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*): Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*): Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Plants:- Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*): Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*): Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*): Yellow Vetchling (*Lathyrus aphaca*): Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*): Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*): Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*): Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), some had rust fungus (*Puccinia urticae*)

Invertebrates:-

Spiders:- *Paidiscura pallens*: *Larinioides cornutus*

Flies:- *Rhagio tringarius* male and female: *Opomyza petrei*

Hoverflies:- *Xylota segnis* female: *Cheilosia illustrata* Female

Sawfly:- *Nematus septentrinalis* larva

Bees:- cuckoo bee species

Beetles:- *Rhagonycha fulva*: Seven-spot Ladybirds (*Coccinella septempunctata*)

Bugs:- *Anthocoris nemorum* adults and nymphs: *Grypocoris stysi*:

Red-legged Shieldbugs (*Pentatoma rufipes*) x3: *Deraeocoris flavilinea*: *Stenotus binotatus*

Fooled again!

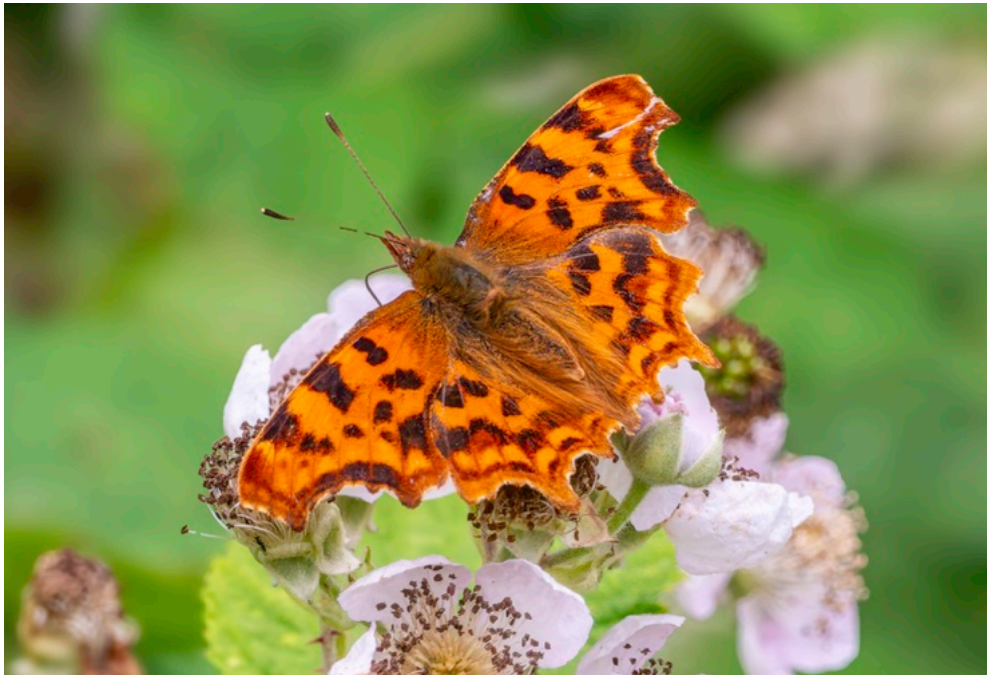
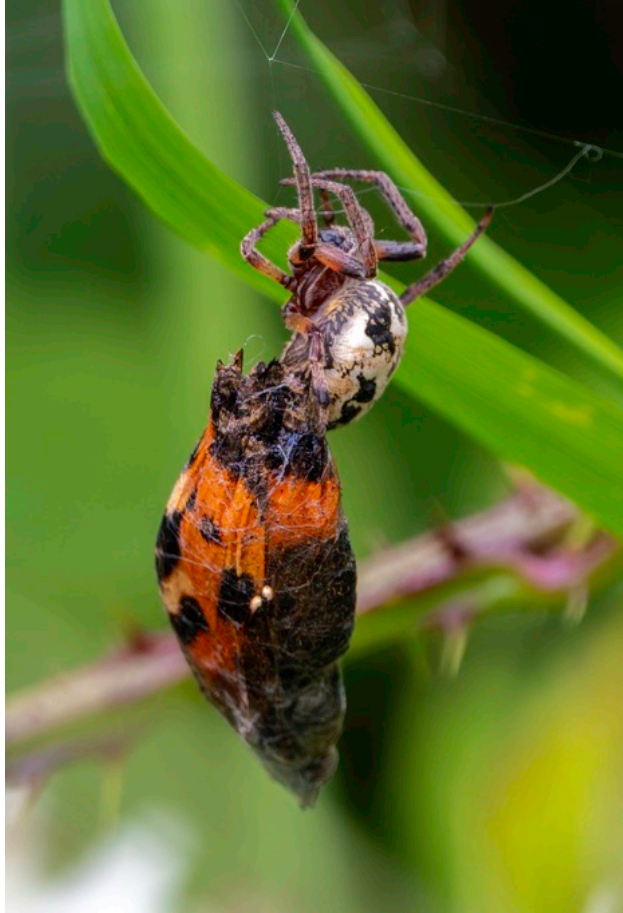
I did see a black, rather torpid insect resting in the grass that looked rather “wasplike”. It wasn’t in any hurry to move so I thought I would take it home to have a proper look. This “wasp” was approximately 10mm long and had a black pterostigma (a dark pigmented spot on the wing edge). I thought it might be one of the ichneumons (a family of parasitoid wasps) so I was very surprised to find out that it is actually a male ant!! Unfortunately, thus far, I haven’t been able to find out which species!

***Paidiscura pallens*
and egg cocoon**



Male ant

Larinioides cornutus
wrapping a Small Tortoiseshell
butterfly up in silk
(Image by Mark Stokeld)



Comma (Polygonia c-album)
(Image by Mark Stokeld)

Sunday 29th June 10:30 am. Hurworth Burn (NZ410333)

Leader, Jo Scott

Wednesday 2nd July 10:30 am. Billingham Beck (NZ454228)

Leader, David Laing

After the heat of the previous days it was a welcome relief to have a cooler morning to explore this much loved park. Ermine moths were beginning to leave the Spindle trees in the car park so it was a good opportunity for photographs.

Thanks to Daphne Aplin for the following list of sightings and images.

Hemiptera: *Plagiognathus arbustorum* on Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*): *Anthocoris nemorum*: *Closterotomus norwegicus*: Parent Bug (*Elasmucha grisea*) final instar nymphs on Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)

Beetles: *Rhagoxycha fulva*: Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*) pupae and larvae

Birds: Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*): Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

Moths: Spindle Ermine (*Yponomeuta cagnagella*)

Butterflies: Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*): Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)

Plants: Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*): Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*): Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*): Melilot (*Melilotus altissimus*): Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*): Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*): Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*): Common Mallow (*Malva sylvestris*): Meadow cranes-bill (*Geranium pratense*): Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

Galls on Meadowsweet. Bean galls on Willow.

**Parent Bug (*Elasmucha grisea*)
final instar nymphs on Silver Birch
(*Betula pendula*)**





Spindle ermine (*Yponomeuta cagnagella*)



Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)

Sunday 6th July 10:30 am. Norton Substation (NZ411219)
Leader, Martin Allen

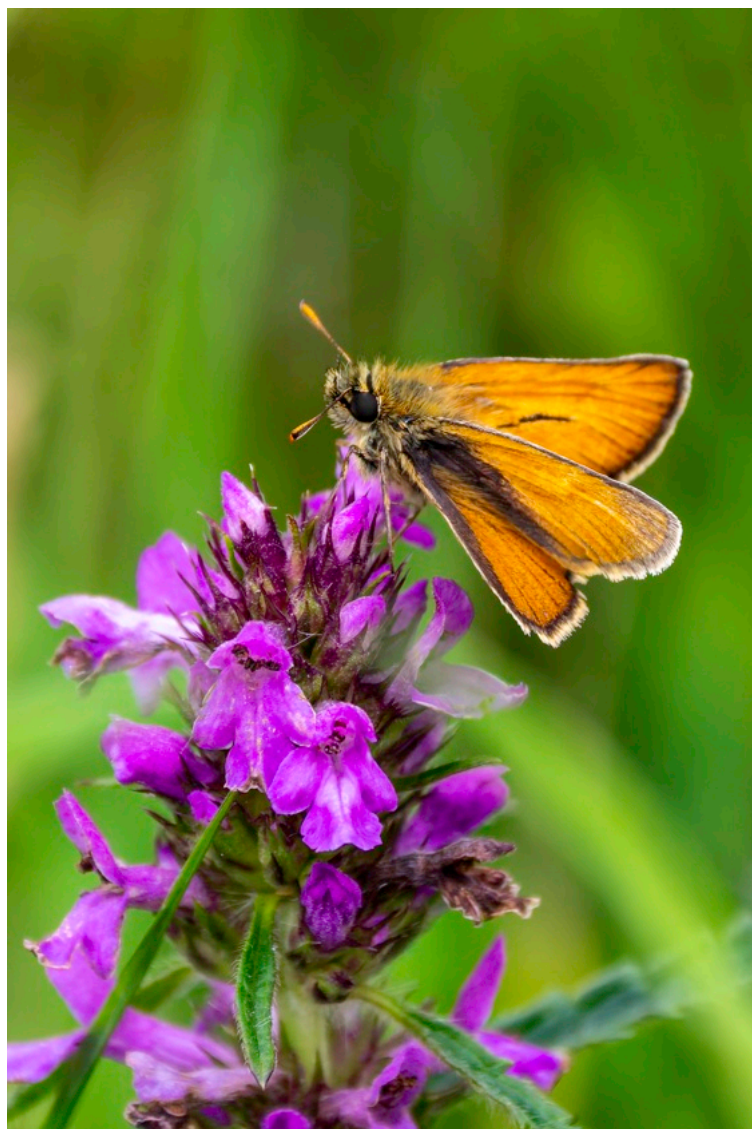
Thanks to Mark Stokeld fro the following images.

Dyer's Greenweed
(Genista tinctoria)



Greater Burnet
(Sanguisorba officinalis)

Small Skipper
(*Thymelicus sylvestris*)



Wednesday 9th July 10:30 am. Ripon City Wetland (SE331699)

Leader, Mark Stokeld

This was a return visit to these wetlands. The flora we observed here in 2025 were listed in the previous issue of the Proceedings. Dragonflies we observed included Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*), Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*), Emperor (*Anax imperator*) and Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*). Butterflies included Comma (*Polygonia c-album*), Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*) and Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*). The numbers of Alder Leaf Beetles (*Agelastica alni*) were much reduced compared with 2024.

We were lucky enough to see a Yellow Wagtail foraging for worms etc.

Molluscs were particularly hard to find during the prolonged period of dry weather at the time. Of note was a population of the White-lipped Snail (*Cepaea hortensis*) in which some individuals had a mid-brown lip (at one time named var. *fuscolabris*) These were in a reedbed with Stinging Nettle near to a hide and picnic tables at SE33256917.

Thanks to Daphne Aplin for the following records:

Coleoptera:

Alder Leaf Beetle larvae (*Agelastica alni*)

Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*) adults, larvae and pupae

Orange Ladybird (*Halyzia sedecimguttata*)

Seven-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*) adults and pupae

A jewel beetle (*Oedemera lurida*)

Dermeestidae – tiny larva on gatepost

Hemiptera:

Anthocoris nemorum

Episyrphus balteatus male

Dicyphus epilobii

Plagiognathus arbustorum

Pollenia amentaria

Liocoris tripustulatus

Red-legged Shieldbugs (*Pentatoma rufipes*) mating pair and one adult

Lepidoptera:

Brimstone Butterfly (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)

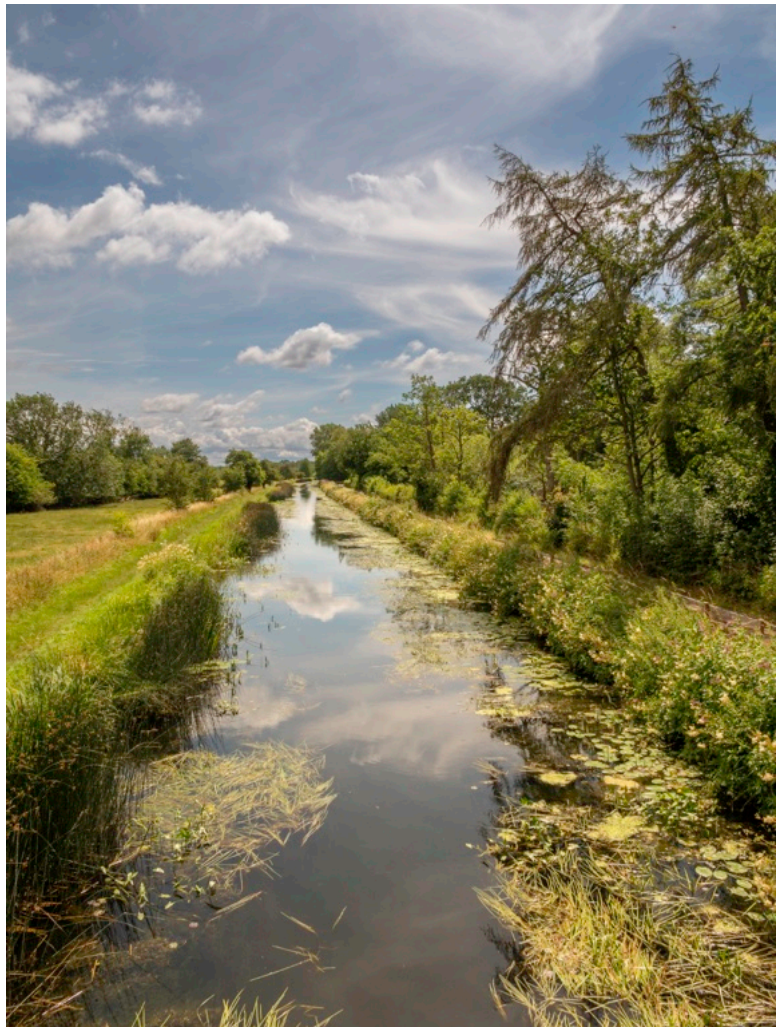
Other:

Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

Zebra spider - (*Salticus* sp.)

Common Green Grasshopper – (*Omocestus viridulus*)

Ripon Canal





Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)



Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*)



White-lipped Snail (*Cepaea hortensis* var. *fuscolabris*)

**Wednesday 16th July 10:30 am. Saltholme Wildlife Reserve (NZ505232)
Leader, Andrew Ferguson**

**Wednesday 23rd July 10:30 am. High Batts Nature Reserve (SE299767)
Leader, Mark Stokeld**

**Wednesday 30th July 10:30 am. Cloughton and Hayburn Wyke (TA010947)
Leader, Andy Astbury**

**Sunday 3rd August 10:30 am. Staveley Nature Reserve (SE369630)
Leader, Jo Scott**

It was a small group of members who met up to have a walk around Staveley Nature Reserve, an area of grassland, woods and wetlands.

There were only a few butterflies and dragonflies present and we recorded Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), Peacock (*Aglais io*), Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*) and a nice sighting was a Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*). There was Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*), Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*) and Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*) flying among the reeds and over the water and we watched a Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps*

cristatus) piggy-backing a youngster for a while. There were some lovely specimens of plant galls, Artichoke Galls (*Andricus foecundatrix*) and Knopper Galls (*Andricus quercuscalicis*) on Oak caused by gall wasps, and an interesting gall on Thistle caused by a tiny gall fly (*Urophora cardui*). Among the plants recorded were Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*) which were well past their best showing only seed-heads and Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*) in the grassy areas.

Thanks to Daphne Aplin for the following additional records:

Seven-spot Ladybird - *Coccinella septempunctata*

Beetle: *Anthocomus rufus*

Spider: *Enoplognatha ovata*

Sawfly: *Athalia rosae*

Mint Moth – *Pyrausta aurata*

Hoverflies: *Sphaerophoria* sp.

Common Green Grasshopper – *Omocestus viridulus*

Hemiptera: *Plagiognathus arbustorum*, *Plagiognathus chrysanthemi*, *Malacocoris chlorizans*, *Oncotylus viridiflavus*, *Palomena prasina* nymphs x 2, *Apolygus lucorum*, *Nabis limbatus*, *Cicadella viridis*, *Philaenus spumarius*.



Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Marsh Helleborine
(Epipactis palustris)



Thistle Gall
(Urophora cardui)

Artichoke Gall
(*Andricus foecundatrix*)



Knopper Gall
(*Andricus quercuscalicis*)

Wednesday 13th July 10:30 am. Ravenscar (NZ985013)

Leader, Neil Baker

Sunday 24th August 10:30 am. Birkdale Farm, Mowthorpe (SE686690)

Leader, Keith Gittens

Many thanks from Club members to Keith for leading such an interesting field meeting.

The following records for the day were provided by Daphne Aplin:

2 x *Pseudochorthippus parallelus* - Meadow Grasshopper

1 x *Athalia rosae* - sawfly

3 x *Coccinella septempunctata* - Seven-spot Ladybird

1 x *Agriphila selasella* - moth

1 x *Tachina fera* - fly

Pieris brassicae - Large White Butterfly

Pararge aegeria - Speckled Wood



Meadow Grasshopper (*Pseudochorthippus parallelus*)
(Image by Daphne Aplin)

In addition the following were recorded (Tony and Moira Wardhaugh):

Flowering Plants:

Bullrush (*Typha latifolia*)
 Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*)
 Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*)
 Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*)
 Greater Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*)
 Water Figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*)

Odonata:

Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*)
 Willow Emerald Damselfly (*Chalcolestes viridis*)
 Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)
 Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)
 Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)
 Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*)
 Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)
 Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

Other Invertebrates:

Amber snail (*Succinea putris*)
 Seven-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*)
 Alder Leaf Beetle (*Agelastica alni*)
 Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)
 Galls (*Urophora cardui*) on Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
 Hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

A Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) was seen briefly, flying over the wildlife pond

Finally, there were several noticeably large pond skaters on the fishing lake (SE688688) which appeared to be *Aquarius paludum*. This is a scarce species in Yorkshire, at the northern limit of its range. Image below:



Thanks to Mark Stokeld for the following images of Odonata taken on the day.



Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)



Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)



Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)



Small Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma viridulum*)



Willow Emerald Damselfly (*Chalcolestes viridis*)

**Wednesday 3rd September 10:30 am. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park (NZ479254)
Leader, Neil Baker**

**Sunday 12th October 10:30 am. Greta Bridge (NZ085133)
Leader, Alan Simkins**

Thanks to Mark Stokeld for the following images.

Coral Fungus





Honey Fungus



Waxcap

Sunday 8th February 2026 10:30 am. Hartlepool Headland (NZ531338)

This was a 'pop-up' winter outing arranged at the last minute when we knew what the weather was going to do. A few members met up for a look for the birds at the headland and we were very lucky with the weather having had ten days of dull rainy days prior to the outing. The sea was very rough with huge waves cascading over the breakwater.

There were not many birds about but we recorded Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), gulls, Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) drying their wings, Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*), Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*), and Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*) feeding among the rocks as the tide retreated.

Eider**Oystercatcher**

Turnstone



Cormorants

Seven-Spot Ladybird Infected with a Fungal Pathogen

Daphne Aplin

On Sunday 21st December, 2025, Graham Featherstone took Jo Scott and I and another two friends to May Moss in North Yorkshire. It was a very damp, misty day but not too cold for the time of year. The aim of the day was to look at the lichens there and it certainly didn't disappoint.

The only insects noted were beetles. Graham uncovered a *Leistus spinibarbis* from under bark and I counted ten Seven-spot Ladybirds (*Coccinella septempunctata*) one of which, from a distance, looked as though it had been hit by a bird dropping! On closer inspection I realised it was attached to pine needles by a white substance.

I contacted Helen Roy, a ladybird expert, at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) and she informed me that she is sure the ladybird had been infected by the fungal pathogen *Beauveria bassiana*.

Strangely enough a few days later Graham found another infected Seven-spot Ladybird at Partridge Hill, North Yorkshire.

Helen informed me that she is fascinated by this fungal pathogen and has studied it for a number of years and asked if she could use our photos for a book she is writing.

Helen also gave me the following link to a paper that has been written on this:

[A fungal pathogen in time and space: the population dynamics of *Beauveria bassiana* in a conifer forest | FEMS Microbiology Ecology | Oxford Academic](#)





Some Interesting New Insect Finds in 2025, County Durham

David Miller

As our climate warms there are lots of interesting insects to be found in the county (Durham), whether they are new or just under-recorded.

Daphne and myself both like to record with a sweep net in hand, either to sweep vegetation or to knock them out of trees and it is a great hands-on way to explore areas. A camera is a must to capture what you find for verification and identification.

The long warm summer of 2025 was a good one for hunting insects. Below are some of our highlights, which illustrate how much there is to be discovered. Personally I stepped up my recording on Scot's Pine a little this year, a tree I'd under-estimated for its species-richness. Many of the identifications were only possible with help from fellow enthusiasts on the internet. You don't have to be an expert, just enthusiastic and slightly competent.

Beetles

Ladybirds have been well recorded in the county but two Striped Ladybirds (*Myzia oblongoguttata*) beaten from Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) at Elemore Park on the 22nd July were a first for me. Elemore Park is an ex-golf course at Easington Lane. An Eleven-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella undecimpunctata*) found by Daphne in the car park at Saltholme on 20th August was also a very good record. A possibly remarkable event was the appearance/finding of Hieroglyphic Ladybirds (*Coccinella hieroglyphica*) at multiple sites along the coast up to Easington Colliery this year. More typically this is a heathland/moorland specialist.

A Variable Longhorn Beetle (*Stenocorus meridianus*) feeding on the umbels of Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) at Crimdon Dene was a lovely find on 11th June.

Bees and Wasps

At least one Hornet (*Vespa crabro*) was present at The Barn at Easington between 11th August and 23rd September, and there are at least six more records on iRecord this year, so this seems to be the year it has finally arrived in the area.

True Bugs (Hemiptera)

We're relatively deprived of Shieldbugs compared with the south of the country but the Bishop's Mitre (*Aelia acuminata*) has made it here. We found six at Dorman's Pool (RSPB Saltholme) on 20th August and another at Crimdon Dene a few days later.

There are not many Squashbugs here either but I found a Denticulate Leatherbug (*Coriomeris denticulatus*) at Dalton Park on the 5th September, the second record away from Teesside. This Park is attached to the shopping centre at Murton and has excellent habitats.

A very small, well camouflaged and seldom recorded Stiltbug is *Berytinus signoreti*. Daphne recorded one on her front door near Cowpen Bewley on 31st July and I swept one from mature grassland at The Barn at Easington on 2nd August. I've since realised that even the common *Berytinus minor* has few accepted records.

Seedbugs can be a bit tricky to identify but the Pine Cone Bug (*Gastrodes grossipes*) was recorded at Elemore Park on the 22nd July and on the 24th July at Dalton Moor Farm (2nd and 3rd records on iRecord). Dalton Moor Farm is a private fruit farm and educational centre. Meanwhile *Stygnocoris rusticus* on 5th September at Dalton Park was a first county iRecord.

We also had some nice Plantbug (Miridae) records with most being firsts for Durham on iRecord. This is the largest family in the Heteroptera. An *Alleotomus gothicus* nymph beaten from Pine at Elemore Park on 22nd July was also a first for me. Likewise *Compsidolon salicellum* which was beaten from Hawthorn at The Barn at Easington on 1st August and a *Megacoelum infusum* nymph beaten from Oak at Saltholme car park on 20th August; Daphne recorded an adult at Cowpen Bewley in 2020 but I'm not aware of any other records. *Phytocoris ulmi* was beaten from Blackthorn at The Barn at Easington on 1st August and from Hawthorn at Cowpen Bewley on 17th August. *Psallus salicis* was beaten from Grey Alder on 22nd July at Elemore Park.

Second county iRecords were the very small *Amblytulus nasutus* found at White Lea Farm on 22nd June and Daphne caught the very similar *Megalocoleus molliculus* on 4th July at Cowpen Bewley.

Saw-flies

These don't generally elicit much excitement but a *Periclista* species larva, probably *P. lineolata* (sawfly larvae look like caterpillars), was found on oak at Elemore Park on 31st May. I think it's pretty cool!



Striped Ladybird (*Myzia oblongoguttata*)



Hieroglyphic Ladybird (*Coccinella hieroglyphica*)



Bishop's Mitre (*Aelia acuminata*)



Denticulate Leatherbug (*Coriomeris denticulatus*)



Periclista* species larva, probably *P. lineolata