|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Barnsley Naturalist and Scientific Society****Report on the year 2023 – 2024.** | C:\Users\Colin\Pictures\Downloads\NATs_new_LOGO_02 a wider canvas.jpg |

The AGM in January 2023 re-elected the members of the committee. Doug Brown continued as President, Peter Roberts as Secretary and Vice-President, and Annefie Roberts as Programme Secretary. Alan Crossland, Linda Graham, Geoff Jackson, Philip Jay and Michele Winder remained as committee members. Michele has increasingly helped with online information and has taken on the responsibility for records.

Indoor meetings had only begun again in September 2022, then at Barnsley Town Hall, on a monthly basis. A presentation on Aspects of Biodiversity in Barnsley followed the AGM and there were two talks in February and March: Rewilding by Chris Tomson and True Bugs by Stuart Foster, both very well attended. The indoor meetings were replaced in the summer months with evening excursions.

The current pattern is for six indoor meetings from October until March on Wednesday evenings. Field visits take place throughout the year on the second Saturday morning of each month, and on Wednesday evenings during the summer months. There are extra day excursions too.

**Field Visits.** Most field visits were well-attended and several new people participated in field visits during this time. There were at least 18 field visits.

We visited Local Wildlife Sites including Royd Moor reservoir LWS and the TPT Glowworm LWS, trapping moths on the same occasion; some of the LWS visited have become SSSIs: Worsbrough reservoir, Carlton Marsh, Adwick washlands, Wombwell Ings, and Pool Ings (below Rabbit Ings).

Other areas visited included Wortley Hall and Cannon Hall parklands, the former for fungi and the latter for ancient and veteran trees. Special visits to sites new to us included: Whitwell Moor and Denby Delf. We also were welcomed to New Hall Farm for a guided tour.

We joined the Yorkshire Naturalist Union (YNU) for the VC63 excursion to Potteric Carr, Plant Gall Society to Seckar Wood, and local British Naturalists Association (BNA) to Phoenix Park.

**Indoor meetings.** A major change this year has taken place: Barnsley Town Hall unfortunately is no longer open beyond 8pm in the evenings. We therefore opted to have our evening indoor meetings at Worsbrough Common Community Centre since an earlier start would be difficult for some speakers and members who may be working away. Our meetings were ‘a Carrion Crow in Close Up’, a fascinating talk by Steve Byers in October, a ‘Birdwatcher's Year’ by Ron Marshall in November, and our Christmas Social in December. The forthcoming talks are on the Ancient Woodland Inventory Review in February and a talk on Wildflower Meadows by Chris Tomson in March.

Numbers seem to have been maintained for our indoor meetings at our new venue. Our financial report refers to the costs involved and its implications.

**Communication.** Members and others interested in the society’s activities are kept in touch by regular emails as well as the Barnsley Nets website and social media, to which Michele contributes.

**Records** of sightings on our field visits are submitted to the Local Biological Record Centre (BBRC) by Michele. Please send your own records to the BBRC.

**Other organisations.** Barnsley Nats members continue to contribute to the Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, Local Wildlife Sites Panel, Barnsley Biological Record Centre, and Barnsley Access Forum.

Thanks are due to the committee members and others who have contributed to the programme, by giving talks and leading field visits.

Peter Roberts, Secretary