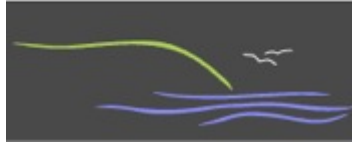


# Scarborough Field Naturalists



## NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone

I hope this finds you all safe. The good news is that it looks like we can soon start 'mini' outings in groups of 6 as we successfully did during last summer. Below is what we have organised so far but we hope to fit others later and may change the format as restrictions permit. Please note that booking is directly through the leader to enable us to keep numbers within the limits allowed.

Nick Gibbons

## SUMMER OUTINGS SO FAR

This is your 'starter for 10'. We will be adding further events and you will be notified of these so please keep an eye on your email boxes.

10 <sup>th</sup> April	Adders	Rob Stark ( <a href="mailto:robstark@hotmail.co.uk">robstark@hotmail.co.uk</a> )
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Hunmanby amphibian survey	Nick Gibbons ( <a href="mailto:nicholas.gibbons123@btinternet.com">nicholas.gibbons123@btinternet.com</a> )
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring flora – Forge Valley	Louise Thompson ( <a href="mailto:louisejcthompson@gmail.com">louisejcthompson@gmail.com</a> )
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Reasty Bank	John Hume ( <a href="mailto:jhhume@hotmail.com">jhhume@hotmail.com</a> )
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Fordon	John Hume ( <a href="mailto:jhhume@hotmail.com">jhhume@hotmail.com</a> )
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Raincliffe Woods bat survey	Nick Gibbons ( <a href="mailto:nicholas.gibbons123@btinternet.com">nicholas.gibbons123@btinternet.com</a> )
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Deepdale	Brian Walker ( <a href="mailto:b.walker827@btinternet.com">b.walker827@btinternet.com</a> )
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Beast cliff	Rob Stark ( <a href="mailto:robstark@hotmail.co.uk">robstark@hotmail.co.uk</a> )
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Holbeck botany survey	Rob Stark ( <a href="mailto:robstark@hotmail.co.uk">robstark@hotmail.co.uk</a> )
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Marton bat survey	Nick Gibbons ( <a href="mailto:nicholas.gibbons123@btinternet.com">nicholas.gibbons123@btinternet.com</a> )
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Dalby quarries	Brian Walker ( <a href="mailto:b.walker827@btinternet.com">b.walker827@btinternet.com</a> )

**Note:** - Please book directly with the leader of the event. There is currently a maximum of 6 persons per event so booking is essential. There will be an opportunity to run two groups of 6 for popular events providing we can find a second leader. Details of timings and meeting points will be supplied to those booked on the event.

**YNU** There are a number of YNU excursions for VC62:-

Vice county excursion Sunday 13th June 10.30am Duncombe Park, Helmsley. For details see YNU website.

Botanical section (joint meeting with BSBI). Farwath, Newtondale 14th June for details contact Wendy English [wendy.english@btopenworld.com](mailto:wendy.english@btopenworld.com)

Bryological section, Jigger Howe. 10am Helwath Bridge contact Tom Blockeel. [Tblockheel@aol.com](mailto:Tblockheel@aol.com)

## Wild Garlic

My first encounter with wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) was in the spring of 1984. We had moved to Scarborough the previous summer. I had bought a bicycle and in April 1984 I decided to cycle down Lady Edith's Drive to Forge Valley. As I rounded a corner I ran into a 'wall' of garlic scent. It almost floored me as I could hardly breathe.

By now wild garlic throughout Raincliffe Woods, Forge Valley woods and many others should be in full flower again with its strong, pungent odour. So here are a few interesting (hopefully) facts about the plant.

The name 'ransom's is thought to derived from the Greek 'Kromon' whose plural is 'hramaton' The plural name was forgotten and a new plural came into use with an 's'.

One common name for it is 'bear' garlic, hence the specific name ursinum. It was believed that bears ate wild garlic to regain their strength after the winter hibernation.

It has given its name to many towns and villages around the country e.g., Ramsbottom (meaning Ramson valley), and Ramsey (Ramson island).

Cloves of wild garlic were planted for good luck in the thatch of Irish cottages in order to deter fairies.

It has been used in many magical rituals to scare away venomous creatures and also to cure snake bites.

It was once thought that butter and milk would be tainted if cows ate garlic so in Yorkshire children were paid by farmers to 'knock down' ransoms to prevent the butter from being ruined. Herbal remedies include as a use for curing ringworm, whooping cough and jaundice.

And of course, it will ward off any wandering vampires!



John Hume

## THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN SPRING

Below is a list of some things to look for in April and you may be able to find some of these on some of the activities we have planned.

Amphibians - frogs, toads, common lizards, adders. Frogs have already spawned and Toad will shortly. Newts will soon be laying.

Bees - buff-tailed bumblebee, white-tailed bumblebee, garden bumblebee, tree bumblebee, honeybee, tawny mining bee, red mason bee.

Birds – Migration season is starting and Chiffchaffs are already singing. Soon be time for the other warblers, Ring ouzels and the first hirundine (Swifts, swallows etc). Remember Ginny Leeming still has areas to cover for the Swift survey.

Butterflies- peacock, small tortoiseshell, brimstone, small white, green- veined white, orange tip. Many of these are already on the wing.

Flowers - primrose, wild garlic, wood anemones, wood sorrel, cuckoo pint, violets, speedwell, forget-me-not, early purple orchids, toothwort, marsh marigolds, cowslips, herb robert, celandine, coltsfoot, greater stitch wort, red dead nettle.

Flies - bee fly.

The badly starting lawn mower has already been heard several times.

John Hume and Nick Gibbons