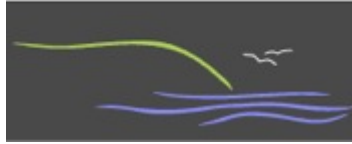


Scarborough Field Naturalists



MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone

I hope this finds everyone safe and well and enjoying the slight increase in freedom we have now. Certainly, the outdoor meetings we have started have been well attended and everyone seems to be enjoying it. We have not yet added any more outings to the list and will wait until after May 17th when we will hopefully take the next step.

We have taken some steps towards sorting out our autumn/winter indoor programme for 2021 in that we have confirmed the following dates with the Scarborough Rugby Club to use their meeting room. This move looks like it was just in time as during the last few weeks we have welcomed quite a few new members and St Catherine's sadly is probably not big enough.

The dates for your diaries for the indoor meetings are the second Tuesday of the month - Sept 14th, October 12th and November 9th and the first Tuesday of the month for December on the 7th. The hall is booked from 7.00 till 9.30. We will get some further info on the web site as it gets finalised.

Nick Gibbons

FORGE VALLEY WALK

Society members had a great walk around Forge Valley woods on Sunday 25th April led by John Hume and Louise Thompson to look at the spring flowers. Plenty to see and record, although some plants have been delayed in their flowering due to the dry and cold weather we have had over the last few weeks.

The orchids were just appearing but were not yet in flower. It was good to sort out the two species of Golden saxifrage (see pics). The Alternate-leaved is far less common and it was nice to be able to study the two side by side.

There were plenty of the nice ancient woodland indicators on view such as Goldilocks buttercup, Wood anemone, Wood sorrel, Town hall clock (Moschatel) and Dog's mercury. Toothwort, although a parasite, is always a nice find and was in full flower.





town hall clock



toothwort



goldilocks buttercup

HUNMANBY POND SURVEY

A survey of Hunmanby was carried out with Nick, Sue, Brian, Kerry M and two of the local volunteers at the community site. The community pond was pretty quiet with just 5 Common frogs and a pair of tadpoles. Have no idea where all the results of the spawn we saw a month ago has gone. The big pond adjacent had masses of tadpoles in the algae and grass, as expected from last month's visit, but we could only find a total of 7 newts. They are Palmate but females are notoriously troublesome so am prepared to be corrected. They are small and have no spotting under the chin. Would have been nice to find some males where the differences are easier to see. There were no signs of any Great crested even after an hour torching by all of us. We might try again in May and also see how all the algal growth in the community pond is affecting vegetation. Watch your emails for new dates.

