

A weekend of Celebration

Foxglove 25 has come and gone – it was a huge success and I hope all those who deserved our thanks have received them. I have to admit there were times when I was concerned, but everyone in every department gave of their best, and I don't feel we could have asked for any more. The letters we have subsequently received say it all, and I hope most of you will have seen them on the reserve notice board.

Principally, the weekend was designed to celebrate our successes and to continue to raise our profile. I believe we achieved both. To all of you, in every corner of our operation, I once again thank and congratulate you on a job very well done. We should not forget that in addition to all the support we enjoyed over the weekend we had a visit two weeks before from the Head of the Training Delivery Service, Brigadier Neil Dalton, and coming from a rural, farming background, it was clear throughout that he is behind us and values what we do. Again we were helped during this visit by our team of volunteers; it went extremely well and he will be back!

We now move on. Amongst all of the hullabaloo surrounding the run-up to the weekend we still continued with the volunteer work, mothing, bird ringing and the essential habitat work. It has been a very busy time but the reserve thrives thanks to the role each of you plays.

Next on the agenda is the preparation of the winter schedule and a string of grant applications mentioned opposite, that John Walker has been sitting on awaiting our attention. There are exciting projects in the pipeline, and a very positive piece of news I cannot yet share with you. But for sure we continue to improve in almost every discipline, we are more capable when it comes to the species we encounter and the knowledge we share, and most importantly the ethos we hoped would prevail in the early days remains extant and continues to be upheld.

Tony Crease

Some memories of Foxglove 25



Flower walk



Tree climbing in the conifer plantation



Tony Crease, Barry Dodd MBE Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Rishi Sunak MP, Sophie Rainer, Lord Zetland



Lord Zetland planting his tree, assisted by Reserve Manager Roger Foreman



Identimologist, Roger Key on an Invertebrate Discovery



Our first class catering team



Story telling at the outdoor classroom



The end of a busy day . . .



Horse logging demonstration

Photographs by Colin Lyne and Whitfield Benson

Worth the early start!

Mid-summer and the alarm goes off at 2.45am; we're heading to Foxglove for a 4am start on the next CES day. After helping the ringers to put up nets, I have the chance for an early morning look around the reserve. Elizabeth tells me that she has seen a Brown Hare in the meadows, so I make my way up there and spot a pair of ears moving through the grasses. Then I spot a second pair of



Early morning Hare

ears – this is looking promising! I lie along the edge of the path which crosses the meadow and watch as the female Hare, the jill, trots along the path. A few minutes later she is followed by the male – the jack - who works his way slowly towards me. By this time the sun is rising and the light is perfect, casting a soft pink glow over the flower meadows. The scene is set and I take photos of the jack checking out the jill's scent. We make eye contact but I lay still, and the jack simply carries on checking her trail, then gently wanders off across the meadow. For me these are precious moments; Foxglove is one of those places where time can almost seem to stand still, giving me the opportunity to capture an instant with my camera, which makes it last forever.

John Hayden

Pond dipping at Foxglove 25

We held four pond dipping sessions over Foxglove 25 weekend, the busiest of which was on Sunday afternoon. In three out of the four sessions, we had people dipping from all three stations. Excitement buzzed on the platforms as we caught a wide range of pond-life including Stickleback, mayfly larvae and damselfly nymphs. We also caught a Diving Beetle in one session and on Sunday afternoon a couple of small Leeches. The age range of “dippers” was wide, from toddlers to grandparents, all of whom were fascinated by the unusual array of creatures, many of which they had never seen before. Visitors learned about other pond life too, as they asked questions about the Water Vole feeding platforms. No Water Voles appeared while we were pond dipping, but one was spotted early on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.



Pond dipping

Martin Durkin - “Senior pond dipping instructor”

Budding Photographers

Eight joined the Basic Photo Walk, led by Colin Lyne, on the second day of Foxglove 25. Based around the Scrapes area, Colin gave a basic introduction to photography, looking at exposure, ISO and composition. Cameras ready, the members of the group were set the task of taking some photographs, which were then viewed, with helpful comments passed on to the budding photographers. Arriving back at the Field Centre, the group then shared their photographs, with further analysis along with useful tips, delivered by Colin. Some lovely photographs were taken during the session, a couple of the photographers hoping to submit for a coveted “month” in next year's Foxglove Covert Calendar.

Don't forget: the closing date for the **Calendar Competition is Friday 15th September 2017!** See the website for further details, or speak to the Reserve Managers.



Long-eared Owl

Road Kill

Dishevelled, fractured, and lifeless, a young Long Eared Owl lies beside the road, one broken wing lifting and dropping with the passing of each vehicle.

Its eye stares, unblinking, at the sky, no longer recording the images that surround it, which were an integral part of its life only hours ago.

The cryptic colouring of its plumage reflects the hues of the moorland where it sought its prey so recently; subtle fawns, golds, and silver-greys, highlighted with white, brown and black.

Glennis Walton



Close-up of the beautiful plumage