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BioBlitz and Heritage Skills Weekend

In July, Foxglove Covert will stage a full weekend of activity which will include a BioBlitz and demonstrations of rural crafts. On the Saturday evening of the weekend we will also be holding our annual barbeque event.

The aim of the BioBlitz will be to record as many species as possible during the weekend. A target of 1,000 has been set but it is hoped to exceed this and a number of naturalists have offered their services to help out with the event. At the same time there will be demonstrations of heritage skills taking place across the reserve. These include the bodgers (see page two), stone carving, textiles, basket weaving and pottery.



There will be a small charge for entry into the reserve during the weekend to help cover costs but everyone is invited to come along and enjoy the weekend.

Full details on the event will be available on the website or on

notice boards in the Field Centre.

Anyone interested in helping with running the event, manning the refreshment stall or acting as a reserve guide get in contact with the Reserve Managers.

Saturday 20th July	Sunday 21st July
Moth Morning (Friday evening set-up)	Dragonfly Survey/Walk
Bird Walk	Fungi Survey/Walk
Earthworm Survey	Lichen Survey
	Fern Survey/Walk
Butterflies	
Flowers	
Pond Dipping/Bug Hunting/ Rooting	
Bat Walk (evening)	Bird Ringing

QR Codes

You may have noticed the increasing use of a funny looking bar-code on signs, posters, web-pages and other publicity media. This bar-code is known as a QR Code and can be used to connect individuals to web-pages via their smartphone. It is first necessary to have an App on the smartphone to read the bar-code but these are available for free. When you see a barcode simply activate the App and point the phones' camera at the QR



Code. Once recognised, the smartphone will take you to the web page. Try the QR Code above, it should take you to the Foxglove Covert main web-page.

Fund Raising

The prolonged winter has resulted in a reduction of visitors and, coupled with a lack of fund raising activities this year, has put a strain on the income coming into the reserve. A car boot sale is planned in June but we need to come up with fresh ideas for fund raising in order to match last year's efforts. If you have any ideas or willing to help out in any way then please get in touch.



Matthew Barley—
described as “probably the
world’s most adventurous
cellist!” Photo © Nick
White

Matthew Barley Around Britten

In June, Foxglove Covert will host a special concert as part of Matthew Barley’s Around Britten tour. Around Britten is an extensive solo tour that pays homage to Benjamin Britten’s creativity and innovation, taking his music to a kaleidoscope of venues far and wide around the UK. Venues not only include the traditional concert halls but take in a number of other locations such as castles, cathedrals and schools. More unusual will be concerts held in a lighthouse, in a cave and, as a result of a nomination to the BBC Music magazine, Fox-

glove Covert.

After very careful consideration, we have chosen to use the Matthew Barley concert as a platform for the commander 15 Brigade (Brigadier Bibby) to show off the “facility” which the Army and community share. Thus the concert, is being sold not as a Foxglove event but as an Army event at Foxglove. As a result, the guest list is primarily those people in the Army who need to know what we offer, rather than our friends. Depending on the weather, there will still be plenty of opportunity for some of the volunteers and

friends to enjoy the event, and we will be asking for help on the evening from those who are best able to sell Foxglove to our guests - you. The sad reality is however, we cannot invite as many guests as we would like because we cannot guarantee to keep them dry if it is raining!! So our numbers are limited by the size of the classroom!

We will carry a full report in the next edition of Undergrowth.

More information on Matthew Barley can be found at: www.matthewbarley.com.

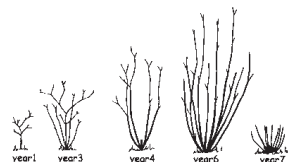
**“Coppicing is
the trimming
back to
stumps”**

**“Pollarding is
the cutting
back of the top
branches”**

Any who has recently walked down past the Scrapes in recent months could not have missed the cleared area to the left of the path. Unfortunately the area looks as if it has been wantonly attacked with a chainsaw! The chainsaw part may be correct but, in fact, the area has undergone extensive coppicing and pollarding as part of the ongoing woodland management of the reserve. Coppicing is the trimming back to the stumps of fast growing trees and bushes such as willow and hazel. This en-

courages new growth from the base of the tree. Pollarding involves the cutting back of the top branches of a tree again to promote the production of a dense growth of new shoots.

Coppicing



Coppice management favours a range of wildlife, often spe-

cies adapted to open woodland. After cutting, the increased light allows existing woodland-floor vegetation such as Bluebell, Anemone and Primrose to grow vigorously.

Woodpiles left in the coppiced area will encourage insects such as beetles to come into the area. Brambles, which may appear in the first season, will also encourage insects and various small mammals that can use the Brambles as protection from larger predators.



The completed gate is installed by the Thursday Bodgers out on the reserve

Foxglove Bodgers (North Yorkshire Group)

A bodger is defined as a woodworker in the traditional style characterized by the use of hand tools, a pole lathe and use of green timber. A group has been formed at Foxglove after a very successful ‘taster’ day back in the summer of 2012.

The group now meet monthly on the third Sunday between 10.30am and 4pm, no skill is required and everyone is welcome to come along and have some fun. Over the past 6 months projects have included spoon

carving, making a shave horse (an essential piece of kit for working the green timber) and rustic stools. Future activities will include the use of a portable forge to make carving knives and crook knives (for spoon and bowl carving). Construction of more ‘rustic’ furniture is also planned and construction of a pole lathe. A couple of months ago the North Yorkshire Adult Learning Centre approached the reserve and asked if some of their clients with learning difficulties might come along

and join in some green wood working sessions. This group now meets on a Thursday under the guidance of Chris Morgan and has constructed a gate (see picture) which is now in use out on the reserve. They have also completed projects making spoons and whistles.

As part of the BioBlitz weekend, the Bodgers will be in full presence demonstrating their skills along with a number of other rustic and country craftsmen (and women). An event not to be missed.

Foxglove is a fabulous place for a family outing

The bird watching areas are extremely good because you always see something interesting. Recently I saw three birds I had not seen before. They were Siskin, Brambling and Lesser Redpoll.

Pond dipping is fun and fascinating because you find all sorts of creatures. I like it when we catch tadpoles, water boatmen and diving beetles. You see a lot of snails too.

At Eco Club you can see and do lots of really cool things

like holding a Jackdaw chick. I enjoyed making a bird box and seeing it mounted to a tree on the reserve.

You can go along any day and if you go on a Sunday you may see all types of birds being ringed. I held a Long Tailed Tit just after it had been ringed and then let it go.

At the Craft Day last summer it was a great opportunity to try new activities. I really enjoyed felting, spinning and watching the wood turner. I was lucky enough to win a

prize to be a warden for the day with Sophie. I filled the bird feeders and counted the sheep and cows with Elizabeth and looked for wild flowers and birds.

FGC is one of my favourite places. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Grace Morris
Age 9



Grace Morris, warden for the day with Sophie

Moths at Foxglove Covert

Most Tuesday evenings from spring through to late autumn the moth trap is put out at the back of the Field Centre. The following morning the 'catch' is studied and recorded.

We are use to the 10 or so butterfly species that can occur around the reserve, but the diversity of other Lepidoptera may be surprising. Over 435 species of moth have been recorded during the past 20 years with names such as True Lover's Knot, Powdered

Quaker, Garden Tiger to name a few.

The moth trap uses actinic light (from a mercury-vapour bulb) to attract the moths which then fall into the trap. The process is non-lethal and the moths find shelter in cardboard egg trays until they are recovered the following morning for identification purposes.

Most moths are immediately identified due to their commonality at Foxglove but every so often a species turns up

that evades identification even with the use of the collection of illustrated guides. Fortunately we can call on the help of Charlie Fletcher, County Recorder, to give us an answer.

If you are interested in learning more about moths then come along and join in with the identification process on a Wednesday morning. We will also be putting out several traps on the Friday evening as part of the BioBlitz weekend (see front page).

**“over 435
species of moth
have been
recorded”**

Chalara Ash Dieback

Chalara dieback of Ash is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called Chalara fraxinea (C. fraxinea).

The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees, and it can lead to tree death. Ash trees suffering from symptoms likely to be caused by C. fraxinea have been found widely across Europe. These have included forest trees, trees in urban areas such as parks and gardens, and also young trees in nurseries.

Unfortunately, it is estimated that 90 per cent of Britain's 126 million Ash trees will become infected and will

impact on the ecosystem, such as plants and animals that live in or near the trees.

At Foxglove we have a number of mature Ash trees and we encourage everyone to be vigilant for any potential infections of Ash Dieback. The obvious signs are dead branches, blackening of leaves and discoloured stems often in a diamond-shape where a leaf was attached.

If you do see any of the above signs then it is important that it is reported back to the Reserve Managers as soon as possible to enable them to investigate further.

Chalara ash dieback

The disease ash dieback is affecting woodland in Britain. **The disease is not harmful to people or animals, but it can kill ash trees.**

How to spot symptoms of ash dieback

The main symptoms are:

- dead branches
- blackening of leaves which often hang on the tree
- discoloured stems often in a diamond-shape where a leaf was attached.

If you see these symptoms, please:

- double check them at the website: www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara or using the QR code below
- report them to the helpline:

08459 335577

To help stop the disease spreading:

- Before visiting other places, clean mud and leaves from footwear, pushchairs, bikes, cars, dogs and horses
- Do not remove leaves, plants or wood from this area.



Contact:
Woodland manager name
0000 000000



Wathgill
Downholme
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL11 6AH

Phone: 01748 831113
Mobile: 07754 270980

E-mail: foxgloveLnr@btinternet.com
www.foxglovecovert.org.uk

Registered charity no 1089020

Events

Saturday 8th June 2013
Bedale Coffee Morning and Car
Boot Sale

Wednesday 12th June 2013
Flower Walk
10.00am—11.30am

Sunday 16th June 2013
Foxglove Bogder's Meet
10.00am—3.00pm

Saturday 29th June 2013
Eco Club—Colours and Scents
of Summer
10.30am—12.30pm

Wednesday 10th July 2013
Rooting Walk
10.00am—11.30am

Saturday 20th July 2013
BioBlitz and Heritage Skills
Weekend
Various times all weekend

Saturday 27th July 2013
Eco Club—The Ugly Bug Ball

Saturday 3rd August 2013
Dragonfly Safari
9.30am start

Undergrowth

Opinions here are those of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foxglove Covert Management Group or the policy of the Ministry of Defence.

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Your local nature reserve at Catterick Garrison

Message from the Chairman

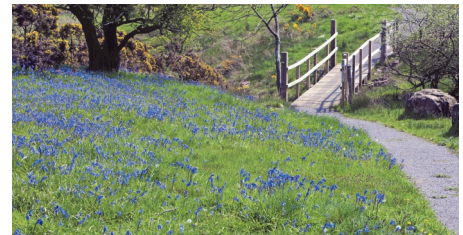
The Year is moving fast: at last spring has arrived and memories of the miserable winter will soon be behind us. You will read elsewhere of the work the volunteers had to do to keep Foxglove in good order and repair the damage that the weather has brought and I owe a debt of gratitude to them for such good work. We were faced with having to get contractors in to do much of it and at some expense, but the enthusiasm and hard work of the volunteers has not only solved the problem, but saved huge amounts of money. So from me, thank you.

Whilst I may not have visited Foxglove of late, I wish to draw your attention to what I've been doing: our financial vulnerability coupled with the problems the MOD has in supporting anything that is not "core business" has forced me to think carefully about how we can secure the future of Foxglove. I mentioned this at the last AGM and I have made some progress since then. The Commander of Catterick Garrison and I have spent many hours discussing the situation together, including a visit to York to demonstrate the value of Foxglove to "Defence". The point we are making is that what we do at Foxglove is entirely in line with what the Army wants to be doing as a member of the community. And I have used the example set by our volunteers to demonstrate just how important we are. In return for the Army's provision of a "facility" for the community, the Army in return gets free labour in the form of

volunteer help. And we have demonstrated that for a relatively modest investment, primarily in the wages for the two managers plus a degree of maintenance etc., the Army gets tremendous value. Firstly there is a free labour provided by volunteers and very willingly, but also because we have an income baseline we can go to other grant giving organisations and show that their money will be spent by a properly constituted organization, on a firm financial footing and on enhancements to an already endorsed establishment.

This argument seems to be going down reasonably well. The regional Brigade Commander is convinced, and his boss, who is ultimately responsible for all military engagement with the civilian community, and for providing what we call "Firm Base" support for our Army, has now been briefed on the part Foxglove plays as a link between Catterick Garrison and Richmondshire.

Lets see how things develop!
Guy Deacon



Foxglove Covert and Grant Seeking

One other thing that we have done is to "contract" Sally Charlwood to raise funds for us. Many of you will know that this is an area of expertise we have been lacking for some time, and is an area in which she has experience and a good track record. Although only a trial at the moment, by someone focusing specifically on this task I predict that we will receive more financial support from grant giving organizations than we have hitherto. I have stated in the past that there are no significant capital projects on the wish list at the moment, (although there are some ideas) but there are always running costs ranging from fuel for the quad bike to new noticeboards, finger posts, tools etc. All of these

have to be paid for somehow and she knows which grant giving organizations are best to target to provide the money. This does two things: firstly it provides money but secondly it frees up the time of volunteers, the managers and members of the management group to do things they should be doing and want to be doing, as well as give them a bit more time.

Guy Deacon



4 hardy visitors enjoy lunch on the new stone seating opposite the Field Centre

Editor's Corner

By the time you receive this edition of Undergrowth, the reserve will once again be under a cloak of green. The previous winter becoming a memory but during that period a huge effort has been put in by our unpaid volunteers to get the reserve ready for the year. All the planned major woodland management tasks were completed and we thank those individuals who braved all weathers to give up their time.