

## Message from the Chair

I have had a meeting with Richard Brooks who provides Environmental Support within the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). Tony, Carl and Gerry were also involved. This is important for us as it is through the DIO that we receive the Ministry of Defence financial support toward some of the costs of the work at the Reserve.

Whilst funding has been confirmed for this year it is not holding pace with our costs and looking to the future what is done with the funding will be subject to closer scrutiny against what it achieves for the Reserve and in particular the military community. We are responding to this with our planning, which is currently ongoing in the background, with the development of a specific engagement plan aimed at the military community and there will be more on this as the plan develops. There will be a further meeting with Richard later in the year to update on progress.

On the same day, the group that are involved in moth identification and counting was on site. It was a chance to say a brief hello. You have got to have endless patience for that one!



From 17th June the Reserve hosted a Service Children's photographic exhibition that reflected the theme of Welcome to our World as a part of the Month of the Military Child. There was also a performance by the Service Children's Choir with the whole event supported by North Yorkshire Council. The exhibition was to show the military from a child's perspective. What has this to do with the Reserve? Well, it is about utilising the fantastic assets we have for different things when we can. In turn, this enables us to get a better insight into the lives of service families and an opportunity to showcase what the Reserve is all about and how it can help with young people's development; also how people can get involved and that it is a great place to have a day out, etc. Basically, win-win.

John Heslegrave, Carl and Mark led a workshop recently with volunteers on the present and future of Foxglove Covert, there were lots of useful discussions and ideas to think about for the future. Many thanks to all who participated.

*Peter, Chairman of the Trustees, and on behalf of John, Mark and Tony.*

## Joining the Dots

Sorry for the title of this bit of Undergrowth, but I keep getting distracted by the huge number of four-spotted chasers currently gracing the damper parts of the reserve - there are flying dots everywhere. We really are lucky to have such fabulous creatures on the wing (more on dragonflies further down the line...)

It's been a busy four months since joining the team at Foxglove. You'll see a log of most of the maintenance activity over the winter later in this edition - with many thanks to all for the hard graft that has gone into habitat work, building, repairing and sometimes even demolishing!

Our recent Volunteer Day, during which 21 volunteers and staff came together to discuss the present and future of Foxglove, helped to highlight the importance of joining the dots. Sharing our experience, endeavour and skills gave us the chance to bring forward a range of views and some great ideas for the development of the reserve. Many thanks to all who contributed. We're pulling together a summary, so that those unable to attend on the day get a flavour of the discussions and have a chance to contribute. This will all greatly help in developing a Reserve Management Plan for the next 5 years and beyond.

Still more dots to join - in a recent meeting with a senior member of the military (and we should bear in mind that the MOD is much more than just our landlord) Foxglove Covert was discussed as 'the jewel in the crown' - and so it is! However, we're much more than just a single jewel in an individual, isolated crown. One area covered on our Volunteer Day was Foxglove's role in the wider nature conservation community. We've been fortunate in the last couple of months to work with the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Nosterfield LNR, The Woodmeadow Trust, MOD tenant farmers, North Yorkshire County Council, the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust, the Moorland Association, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England. We've hosted and benefitted from advice given to us by a

grassland management specialist, the MOD's forester, their Environmental Management lead and an expert on waxcap fungi. So, while on a day-to-day basis, it can seem that Foxglove exists in its own serene little world, nothing could be further from the truth. We're part of a vital network, with an ability to both influence and be guided by the wider conservation community for the benefit of species and habitats.

Some of the most important dots to join are those which connect us to Catterick Garrison. We are increasingly aware of the need to be relevant to the MOD and even more importantly to the service families that live on and around Catterick Camp. We'll be supporting unit Family Days, holding bespoke events, and working with families through our local schools. At the time of writing, we're hosting the 'Welcome to our World' Service Children's photo exhibition, launched with an event which attracted 70 people, many of them new to Foxglove. There will be much more on this theme in the future and we're very receptive to ideas of how to build strong connections with the military – so get your thinking caps on!

I could expound further about our wider community work and our education sessions, but I think it might send me dotty, so I'll write more on those in future editions of Undergrowth...

*Carl Watts, Senior Reserve Manager*

## Let's rewind and review 2022!

Winter has finally gone, hooray!! Hello to pruning and grass cutting! However, before you all get tanned and beach body ready, I thought it might be nice to look back on what the volunteers have done over this past winter.

As you all know the winter months are our infrastructure months when all the large jobs are completed. So, pour yourself a white wine or whisky, put your feet up as I take you back to the cold and dark days of 2022!

It began as it always does, coppicing the Willow Carr. On the map it didn't look that big, how wrong was I! At one point we had three fires going and Ian's chipper at max revs! We even got Sean the tree surgeon to help cut the willow down! Once it was all cut and we had a mountain of wood we had two options:

1. Buy a chainsaw and chop fire logs for the volunteers! Brian was obviously very keen on this adopting my chainsaw immediately; in fact I've only just got it back! 2. Chip the wood to use on the paths around the reserve.

The cascading ponds have always been a great area for dragonflies and with the sound of the water it is a tranquil area of Foxglove. The issue was the trees which obscured the view and stopped the sunlight getting through. We decided to thin the area to allow a better view and to see if wildflowers would emerge in the spring (they did). With the help of Dr Peter, we selected which trees to fell. We even found Juniper trees on the far bank that the late Major Crease must have planted a while back. The area now looks great.

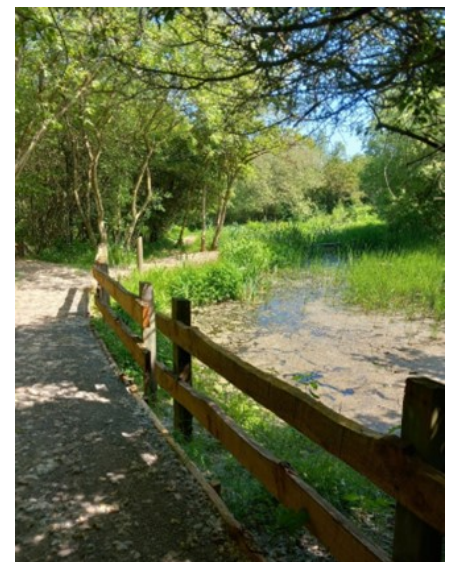
Now for one of the bigger jobs, the Ash trees at the outdoor classroom. Sadly, after consultation with the Forestry Commission we had to fell the Ash trees at the classroom for safety reasons. Having been told the timber would be very valuable we got to work. First Sean would fell over 80 trees, then cut them to a specific length on the ground. We would then get a forwarder in to remove the logs and take them over the wildflower meadow. Lastly a large Class 1 log lorry would then move them to the timber yard for sale. It all sounded so easy, but the good old British weather was not on our side with heavy rain! Then the price of timber crashed. Sadly, the money we did make from the timber sale just covered the costs we had incurred from the cutting down and the removal to the timber yard.

The two bridges we have on the main lake were also subject to our winter maintenance programme. Old timbers have been replaced and new vertical supports have been added after getting advice from an expert engineer Pete. Timber that had been blown down in storm Arwen was cut to size and used on these supports. It is nice to use natural materials that are from our reserve. We also added extra metal guards to help stop children from climbing over the



bridge's handrails. My thanks to Freddie for supplying the safety equipment required and the expertise in using it.

The vole ponds, I had an idea. First, the second of the two ponds needed repairing as its path had begun to slope into the water. In came Nicola and Julie to the rescue. Hammering old boardwalks into the ground vertically to make a new edge. Seeing them swing a very large hammer was interesting! The first pond needed more work. Over several years the pond had silted up and was now not looking its best. James Coxon lent Foxglove a water pump and we got stuck in quite literally! With the water drained away we began digging out the silt which seemed to go down





forever! Hayley was in heaven digging! We then literally poured the silt onto the path that Julie and Nicola had made at the second pond. Amazingly we managed to do all this in just one day and even started to refill the pond that same day. Safety barriers made from Foxglove trees, new path edging, new level gravel finished with our own wood chippings finished the job off perfectly! And there's more!

Since I have been at Foxglove, there has been an overgrown structure that was called the Heligoland. Having spoken to the Swaledale ringers we decided to see if we could bring it back to life. Sean our ever-present tree surgeon began by cutting back the ivy and the large trees growing inside. This was no small job and very soon there were large piles of logs waiting to be removed. The "pushme-pullyou" was brought into action along with the wheelbarrows and the quad bike to remove them. Over a period of many days the structure began to appear, it was much bigger than we thought! Next winter this project will continue, replacing beams and making the area safe for the ringers.



An opportunity came our way when the window to be part of the Queens Green Canopy (QGC) was extended. Foxglove had just cut down an area that had been full of Ash trees which was a perfect area to be replanted and to be part of something special. A variety of saplings had been ordered, tree tubes found and a plan involving our Patron Lord Zetland was put into action. One of the most important jobs was polishing the silver spade! Food booked, VIP booked, journalist booked, a shiny plaque to unveil and a nice tree for the VIP to plant were all sorted. Then somebody from Yorkshire Water decided to ruin the day by bursting a water pipe to the camp. With no water we had to cancel, but it wasn't the end! The next day Brian, one of our longstanding volunteers, became our stand in VIP and the tree planting of 301 trees planted in just one day went ahead! Foxglove is now part of the QGC; please go and check it out on their website!

A nice side note to this is that we had trees left over and children from Richmond School who were visiting Foxglove got to plant these up at what we call the "skid pan" (also known as "Charlie's coppice").

After removing all the logs from the outdoor classroom, we had caused a tremendous amount of mess and damage on the path to the wildflower meadow. Again, we used wood felled in Foxglove to make the path edges and drainage pipes were then placed under the path. Thank you to John Heslegrave for providing the cobbles and stone. Then three tonnes of gravel was used to profile the path. Our thanks to Ian the farmer for loaning Foxglove his whacker plate. It now looks better than before.

Do you remember working on the green route? More Ash trees had to be cut down for safety reasons. Due to its location, we decided not to remove the timber as it would have been back breaking so instead left some of them to become part of the habitat of the area. Sean kindly used his chainsaw on the remaining wood to make even more timber planks for us which happily got moved by the Help for Heroes soldiers.

Hayley and I decided one day to get rid of tree tubes around trees that no longer needed them. A bigger job than we first thought and they just kept popping up! We now literally have hundreds of used plastic tubes at the bullet catcher which will be recycled.

One of the most enjoyable jobs done was clearing the beck below the weir; it is an area we seldom go down. I hope the Kingfishers appreciate the work we did for them!



So, I am coming to the end of my little column, but it wouldn't be complete without mentioning two things, firstly the dam. The managers became aware of the leak in October last year, this was immediately reported to Landmarc who provided specialist inspectors. The job was then put out to tender, contractors carried out their own inspections and placed bids. This process takes time and finally after eight months we have had the leak repaired. However, once we began working on the dam it became apparent that the dam required more work than we previously thought. Quick drying cement was used to fill a large crack that sits below the water line. The dam is now safe but more work may be needed to strengthen the structure further. Our thanks to Johnathan Pounder who has been working with us on this project.

Second, if you haven't already done it, I suggest you run your hand over Brian's table in the workshop and tell him the best way of doing it. Honestly, he loves advice from anyone with no knowledge, talent or skill in wood work.

On a serious note, I cannot wait to see the QAVS table in the field centre. Everybody who was involved with the QAVS will have their name on a hidden document put into the table! That's it, time for a second glass I hear you say, Cheers!!

*Gerry Dorrington, Reserve Manager*

## The Devil's Darning Needle—historical references to Foxglove's flying gems

The Devil's Darning Needle - what a rotten name to give such a wonderful creature. I've always loved wildlife, this despite the fact that when I was a young child, my mum told me that if a large dragonfly hits you in the head, you'll die within seconds. I now put this down to her youth in rural Lincolnshire! It seems to me that dragonflies (understandably) are pretty proficient at avoiding collisions with humans.

Dragonflies have been around for a very long time. The fossil record goes back 300 million years when the atmosphere was far denser and oxygen rich. These conditions allowed species such as *Meganeura* to hunt around the swamps of late Carboniferous 'Britain' with a wing span of 75 centimetres (I still don't think a theoretical cranial collision would have been fatal though!)

Once humans appeared on the scene the beauty of the dragonfly became an inspiration, but also something of importance. The Ancient Egyptians of the Middle Kingdom, (approximately 2050-1650 B.C) created dragonfly amulets which were interred with the dead – an indication that the insect was of such significance that it was needed in the afterlife. Earlier carvings from Sixth Dynasty (2345-2333 BC) of the Old Kingdom also showed dragonflies to be of importance to our forebears.



*Ancient Egyptian dragonfly amulet and carving*



Much more recently and very much closer to home, the 14th century Luttrell Psalter, which includes hundreds of illustrations of scenes from everyday medieval life, shows a drawing of a species of hawk dragonfly in the margin. To my eye, it's recognisable as a Common Hawker (*Aeshna juncea*) - one of the species you're likely to encounter on a visit to Foxglove Covert.

*A possible Common Hawker from the Luttrell Psalter (c.1325-40)*

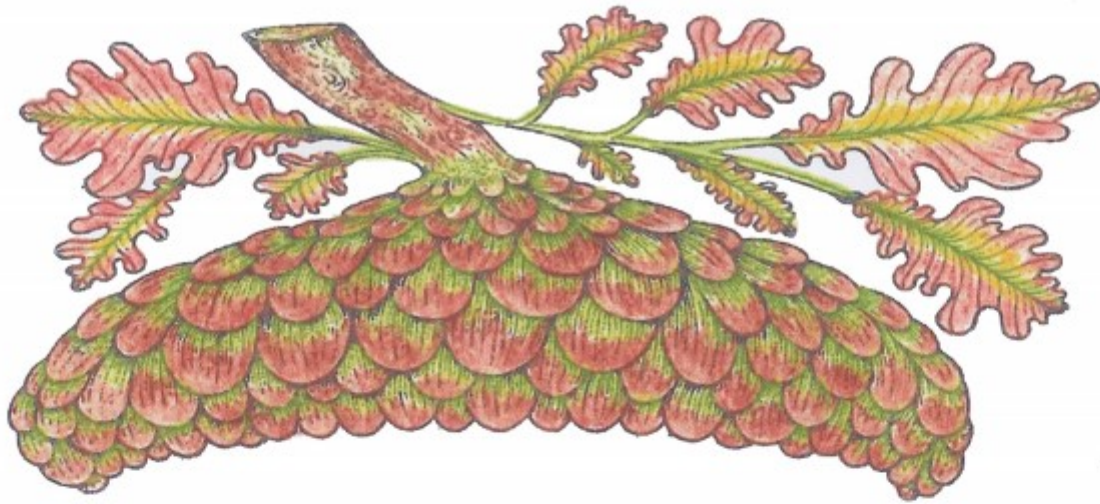
In 1899 Fanny D Bergen wrote in her 'Animal and Plant Lore' that dragonflies, known as "devil's darning-needle [would] sew together the fingers or toes of a person who goes to sleep within its reach", following on with they would also "sew up the mouths of scolding women, saucy children, and profane men" (sounds quite handy to me...) With the huge numbers of dragonflies and damselflies we have here at Foxglove, I'd have expect to see some evidence of this, so I think we can safely dismiss Fanny's ideas as myth.

To date there are 17 damselfly and 25 dragonfly species extant in Britain. We're fortunate at Foxglove Covert to enjoy 20 different species of Odonata (a name derived from the Greek and meaning 'toothed' – covering both dragonflies and damselflies). They're widespread across the reserve wherever we have water. While our chasers and skimmers (the broader bodied dragonflies) appear earlier in the summer, the hawkers with their narrower bodies will dominate as the summer season progresses.

While I've seen them elsewhere, a week ago I was delighted to see my first Yorkshire golden-ringed dragonfly at Foxglove. This species is one of my favourites. Not only is it a beautiful and skilful predator, but it has an amazing life cycle whereby the nymph can remain submerged for over five years, moulting up to 14 times, before emerging as a Teneral. While we tend to focus our attention upon the period on the wing (not surprising as each wing can be controlled independently, even allowing backwards flight, making them an excellent biological control against mosquitoes!), this lasts only 2 to 8 weeks, just a fraction of the life of this wonderful insect which has been of interest to humans for many, many generations.

*Carl Watts, Senior Reserve Manager*





I watch  
Eyes fixed in wonder,  
Dragons and Damsels  
Vying for a watery spot  
To deposit their eggs.  
I watch them drop.

I spot  
Plovers swooping low  
Over Spigot Mere  
A fly or two to catch  
Appetites to fulfil  
I share their hunger.

I sit  
Beneath a wondrous sight  
Dappling leaves of Red Oak  
Shade me from the dazzling  
Autumn sun  
I glow inside

I scent  
A dampened spot  
In tree covered shade  
Mosses mound and lichens creep  
Such feathery fronds of wonder.  
I lean to touch.

I listen  
Eyes closed to concentrate  
Ears tuned to hear  
Chiff chaff, chiff chaff  
Not knowing what they say  
I quietly imagine.

I peek  
Through tallest reeds  
A Reed Warbler to espy  
Feathery tops tickle my face  
As I wheel through their curtain  
I giggle.

I spy  
Dew dampened webs  
a spider's trap  
awaiting the tremor  
from its unsuspecting prey  
I wait, anticipating

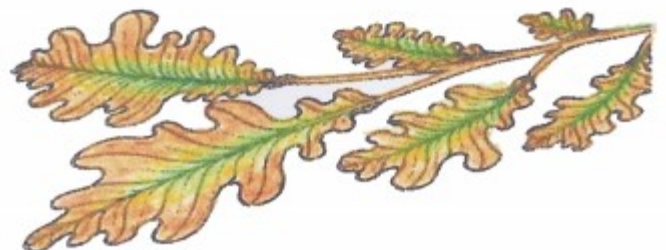
I hear  
A gentle trickle of crystal waters  
Flowing from level to level  
Oxygenating ponds  
For creatures in their depths.  
I peer into their world.

I observe  
The strangest of sights  
Tiny seed heads with fluffy wings  
Piled high like rising fog  
Along the path.  
I blow them on their way.

I pause  
Awaiting the buzz  
Of flowers' stripy friends  
Busy worker bees  
On their quest for pollen.  
I buzz too

I spot  
Hoverflies, too numerous to count  
Alighting the flowers  
Of blackberries wild  
Pots of jam in the making  
I lick my lips

I feel  
A calming presence  
Worries diminishing  
Mind clarifying  
Joy returning  
Nature reviving.....



## Ringling on The Rock!

This spring, members of the Swaledale Ringing Group joined the Army Ornithological Society (AOS) on an exciting bird ringing trip to Gibraltar. After a windy landing onto a runway which crosses the main road into the town, the ringers passed palm trees and warships to reach the Strait of Gibraltar Bird Observatory. This ringing station, an old prison cell now run by the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GOHNS), is located at Jew's Gate within the Upper Rock Nature Reserve which itself is situated at the south end of Gibraltar looking out towards Africa.

The Rock of Gibraltar is a limestone promontory, 5km long and 1km wide with amazing views from the summit over the straits to Morocco, only 20km away. On a clear day, the Rif Mountains could be seen from the front door of the ringing station. On other days, Saharan dust blown up from the south created an orange haze which obscured them from view. Gibraltar is a key location for migrating birds travelling across the Mediterranean between Africa and Europe; the Straits of Gibraltar form the narrowest crossing of the Mediterranean Sea, separating the two continents by only 13km. 315 bird species have been recorded, many of which are migratory. These Palaearctic-African migrants include both passerines and near-passerines, and raptors. Ringing occurs at the bird observatory every day the weather allows from February to June, and August to November. The information collected is important for increasing knowledge of migration, such as changes to passage periods and aspects of migration biology.



*Female and male Woodchat Shrikes*



*Sardinian Warbler*



*Bonelli's Warbler*

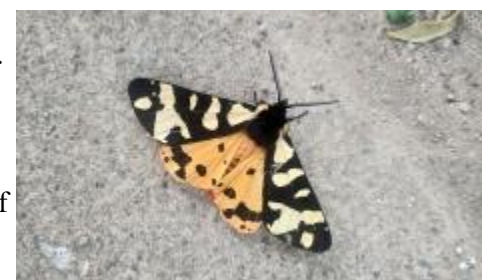
During the trip, a typical day consisted of an early start where we attempted to catch Scops Owls with the use of tape lures. Unfortunately, not a single owl was heard all week! Instead, we were serenaded all night by the loud trill of the local Iberian Marsh Frog in the bird observatory garden pond whom we fondly nicknamed Kermit. The mist nets remained up until lunchtime when the heat would become too much. These mornings proved to be a fantastic opportunity to learn from very knowledgeable and experienced ringers, and to learn about new species. A wide variety of warblers were caught including Bonelli's, Sardinian, Melodious, Subalpine, Willow, Wood, Blackcap, and Whitethroat. Additionally, a range of other species were caught including Pied Flycatcher, Blackbird, Nightingale, Wren, Greenfinch, Redstart, Serin and Turtle Dove. A particular highlight was a pair of Woodchat Shrikes, identified by their powerful beaks and orange-red heads. For the local ringers, a female Bullfinch proved to be very exciting – one of only a handful ever ringed at the observatory. We had no trouble determining the age of this bird after all the practice we've had at Foxglove!

When the wind direction was right, we spent our afternoons counting raptors as they migrated over the straits from Africa. The birds would rise on the thermals as they approached the land and soar over our heads in their hundreds. Black Kites were the most numerous but there were also large numbers of Short-Toed Eagles and Booted Eagles, a variety of Harriers, plus Peregrines, Sparrowhawks, Osprey, Black Storks, and even some Flamingos. There was a lot of excitement when not one, but two different types of vulture were spotted, Griffin and Egyptian. Other species seen around the rock included Blue Rock Thrush, Barbary Partridge, Yellow-legged Gull, Bee-eater and Pallid Swift.

The trip was not all about the birds; there was some other amazing wildlife to see too. Possibly the most famous Gibraltar residents are the Barbary Macaques who live higher up on the rock. There were also some stunning butterflies including the bright and flamboyant Spanish Festoon. Moth trapping was done on several nights. Highlights included Cream-spot Tiger and Striped Hawkmoth. There were also lots of geckos and lizards around, and of course our favourite resident, Kermit the Iberian Marsh Frog. Overall, the trip was an amazing experience. Same time next year everyone?!



*Spanish Festoon*



*Cream-spot Tiger*

*Hayley Land, Reserve Manager and member of the Swaledale Ringing Group*



## Me and My Camera

My father took many family photos over the years and as I grew up and my interest in nature grew, my father's photos turned from family to nature. He encouraged me when I got my first camera. Black and white prints, colour prints, transparencies. Better cameras went along side by side with these changes. Then digital! I did not like digital I was not going to change to digital! Never ever! A friend finally persuaded me to borrow one of his digital cameras as I went to explore my favourite haunts of Teesdale. I was converted! Unfortunately, my father did not see this change and I know he would have loved it tremendously.

Now, me and my digital camera go everywhere together. I take as many photos as I want, not having to find somewhere to print them, then wait impatiently to see what I have and being so disappointed in the printed results. Now once on computer some end up deleted whilst others are kept. Most of my walks with my camera are around Foxglove. In the summer a path gets worn between Plover's Pool, across the middle moor flower meadow, to Spigot and usually back again!

Walks change with the seasons; spring walks must be along Risedale Beck waiting for the first Primrose. The Sycamore Avenue leading into the Larch is a must for autumn, with the dried leaves to kick your way through and the golden brown of fallen Larch needles. Winter, to blow away the cobwebs, it is across the moor. The Lake also calls in winter, especially if frozen.

What do I look for? Well, the answer is anything and everything, especially anything that should not be there. I hasten to add that things that shouldn't be there are often seed heads in the wrong place, dead leaves, mud and other very inspiring 'things'! I once crept up slowly, quietly, to a bug on a rail and clicked before realising that it was a beautifully curled up leaf!

Winter there are no bugs or beetles as sensibly they are hidden away. Come mid to late spring they emerge and then the hunt is on. Patience is required waiting for a butterfly to settle. Strike one is to get it settled, strike two is hoping there is not much pesky vegetation in the way! But that is part of the fun. Many insects are prey, and they consider a camera lens approaching them as prey (no idea why!) and they quite simply fall off. I do have many photos where there is a blade of grass or leaf, minus the insect!



*Dog daisy and 7-spot ladybird*



*Broad-bodied chaser*



*Sparrowhawk*

Each year I take the same photos, but each year it is just a little different. I just love recording the nature around me at Foxglove. I have volunteered at Foxglove for many years and have recorded the many changes that occurred, from the Highlanders who helped to make our middle moor what it is today, to the development of the wetland, Plover's and Spigot. Each of these is now a vital habitat for so many species. The Higher Level Stewardship Scheme in 2010, saw many major projects carried out. Volunteers work hard all year round and in all weathers to maintain and improve all of these many, varied and valuable habitats.

I was privileged to be part of the bird ringing scheme as scribe and was taken into the world of birds. It was exciting to be so close to our wild birds and able to photograph them. I think the most frightening bird to photograph was the Sparrowhawk. Its eyes, so bright and one could almost say it was sizing you up as prey!

iPhones are now as good as cameras, and I do use mine sometimes, but I do like my camera. Where will photography be in 10, 20, 50 years' time? Wherever the journey takes the recorded image, the excitement, pleasure, thrill of taking and recording a photograph will never leave people.

*Elizabeth Dickinson*

## Meeting and Greeting at Foxglove Covert

Since April I have volunteered for the meet and greet role at Foxglove Covert for a few weekend days. The main reason is to take some pressure off the reserve managers, and to ensure that there are more days that they can work together during the week to deal with some of the challenges in keeping Foxglove Covert in good shape. It will be no surprise that this has been really enjoyable, the reserve looks wonderful in the spring, the air is full of birdsong and there's always something new to see. The visitors are lovely too. I've met people who are visiting for the first time and people who know the place much better than I do, so I've learned a few things.

Most people want to talk about what they have seen, or what they might see, listening and helping are a real pleasure. Duties are simple, opening the field centre, filling bird feeders, keeping the place tidy, and taking payment for parking and sales from the shop, then locking up at the end of the day. If you think you could help out with meeting and greeting please contact the reserve managers at [foxglovelnr@btinternet.com](mailto:foxglovelnr@btinternet.com).

*Mark Williams, Trustee*

## Species Update

Our moth trapping, bee and butterfly surveys are taking place across the reserve. All the data recorded is sent to the VC65 recorders. The nest box ringing carried out by the Swaledale Ringing group is nearly finished for this year, with only a few boxes remaining to go back to. All this data is sent to the British Trust for Ornithology.

We have had some new species. One from Derek who recorded *Trupanea stellate*, a pretty little Picture-wing Fly, which develops in Ragwort. It appears to be new to VC65 and is a significant northern record.

Our recent moth morning revealed a rather nondescript Gelechiid which turned out to be *Carpatolechia notatella*. It's the eighth record for Yorkshire, the second this century and the first for VC65. It is a goat-willow feeder.

We have recorded a total of 141 Common Swifts which is unusual. The biggest counts ever in the county all come from Spurn where it is really abundant, but away from Spurn, this is the biggest number ever caught in a trapping session in the county!

Our species still amaze us.

The spring butterflies are almost finished with only a few sightings of some very worn specimens of Peacock, although the Brimstone butterflies still keep appearing, way out of camera reach. The summer ones are beginning to show themselves, Common Blue, Meadow Brown and Small Copper, but the Ringlet and Small Heath are still to make a camera appearance. Later in the summer we will be scrutinising the fritillaries to see if the Silver-washed Fritillary returns along with the Brown Argus.



*Meadow Brown*



*Common Blue*

Large Red Damselflies were late to appear, but they have made up for it since in very large numbers. Four-spotted and Broad-bodied Chasers are living up to their names by chasing across many ponds. The larger 'dragons' are beginning to make their appearance.

Our Northern Marsh Orchids have appeared in places where they do not usually appear. Common Spotted Orchids are just coming into flower, again in new places as well as their old haunts.

We have a new sheet that we are asking visitors to fill in as they walk around the reserve and hand back in at the Field Centre. This will give us more data to support our species.

*Elizabeth Dickinson*

## Upcoming Events

For more information on any of our events or to book your place please visit our website -

<https://www.foxglovecovert.org.uk/events>

### Wednesday 9th August

Family Discovery Day 10am - 3pm

A minimum donation of £5 per child (well behaved adults and under 3s go free!)

Booking is essential as places are limited

### Wednesday 30th August

Family Discovery Day 10am - 3pm

A minimum donation of £5 per child (well behaved adults and under 3s go free!)

Booking is essential as places are limited

### July - August

Pond dipping 10am - 3pm

A minimum donation of £5 per group (for access to equipment and your own pond platform).

## Keep in touch!

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Read our Blog on our website

[www.foxglovecovert.org.uk](http://www.foxglovecovert.org.uk)



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# Ranger



**Foxglove Covert Local Nature Reserve**  
**Catterick Garrison, Richmondshire**

**Full Time or part time up to 37.5 hours per week with a pro rata salary of £21,000 - £23,000**

Foxglove Covert is a progressive and ambitious Local Nature Reserve (LNR). It is of local and national significance and plays a pivotal role in nature conservation activities within a 125,000-acre military training estate.

The 100-acre reserve is currently in receipt of a broad range of funding including individual and trust donations, the MoD and other schemes from time to time. With a purpose-built Field Centre and 20,000 visitors each year, the reserve seeks to:

- Promote and develop further links with the local community and other stakeholders who are encouraged to become involved actively in conservation.
- Sympathetically manage and sustain a range of habitats within the reserve, improving habitat quality and diversity wherever possible with climate change, biodiversity and sustainability benefits.
- Support mental health and wellbeing initiatives, learning and skills development.

For this post, ideally, we require someone with a hands-on passion for nature conservation and the environment, working to ensure an outstanding visitor and volunteer experience. Working closely with the Reserve Manager you will help shape, develop and implement the vision and supporting plans towards a sustainable future for the reserve.

The successful candidate will preferably have experience of working in an environment-based setting having day to day contact with visitors and volunteers. You must have the interpersonal skills to deliver the reserve's busy activity and engagement schedule, facilitating the safe and enjoyable experience of visitors and other groups.

The ability to develop practical skills and best practice in habitat and species management is essential, along with an enthusiasm to promote the Reserve, its activities and general environmental awareness in the local community.

The role is both demanding and rewarding; bringing new and exciting opportunities to enhance the operational experience of a special and much-loved place.

For further information and an application pack, or if you would like to arrange an informal discussion about the position, please email: [admin@thefoxglovecovertfoundation.org.uk](mailto:admin@thefoxglovecovertfoundation.org.uk)

**Closing Date for Applications - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Find out more about Foxglove Covert at [www.foxglovecovert.org.uk](http://www.foxglovecovert.org.uk)