

Members' Activity Group Meeting

Venue: Clubhouse

Date: 7th April 2026

Time: 7pm

Attendees:

Carol, Dawn, Jane, Jane, Matthew, Michael, Susan, Sylvia

1.

Member Activity Days

April 8th

Rubbish clearing behind clubhouse; checking tree guards along Choir School Border; repairing fence between football fields

April 9th

With NT Volunteers: quarry clearance, cutting, coppicing and dead hedging

[**April 8th, 9th** and other days to be arranged individually: Tree Guardians with Matthew to monitor and record plants in their squares to establish survival rates in preparation for replacement planting in Autumn]

April 11th

Butterfly monitoring induction day: Jem to give introduction to project and review of previous findings; first transect walk if weather is favourable

[Nick Hall's talk on "The Butterfly Year in Yorkshire" is available on the Butterfly Conservation website.]

April 23rd

Final session in quarry with NT Volunteers; grubbing up Dog's Mercury and brambles from enclosure south of Quarry

2.

Other Dates

Volunteer Fair

There is a volunteer fair for pupils at Outwood Academy on **29th April**. Similar to the event at Ripon Grammar School last year, this is a chance for Charities to recruit volunteers from the school. Members are needed to assist with setting up the stall from 8.30am and to help staff the stall in shifts through the day until 2.30pm.

Ripon City Council Grant

Carol has completed the Review and Budget Statements relating to the RCC Grant ready for presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting on **20th May**. This will be a key event which it is hoped will lead to a renewing of the grant next year.

Archaeological Dig

Details have been circulated about the FoHW/RHAT's Archaeological Dig which is open to the public on **21st** and **22nd May** with a morning session from 10am and an afternoon session from 12pm.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

On **15th June** Girl Guiding Ripon are coming to do a Balsam Pull on Hell Wath: about twenty Rainbows from 5pm to 6pm; sixty Brownies from 6pm to 7pm and forty Guides from 7pm to 8.30pm. The groups will be fully supervised and organised but any members who are free to assist will be welcome.

Balsam Bashing

Towards the end of May the effectiveness of last year's balsam pulling programme will be assessed. Depending on what we find the strategy for this year will be decided and details and dates circulated to members who are interested in taking part.

3.

Faulty bat boxes

Some installed bat boxes have become warped and are coming apart. This seems to be a manufacturing fault which John is investigating with a view to repair or replacement.

4.

Notice Boards

Some of the notice boards erected on site by the Skell Valley Project need attention as they have become disfigured by dirt, mildew and algae. The notice board at the foot of the Giant Steps is also being smothered by overhanging elm branches which could be cut back.

5.

Rustic Bridge

One plank has rotted thorough and become unfixed. This has been reported to NYC and a temporary repair is in place.

6.

Tree Safety

A member mentioned that many trees across the site were dead or dying and some branches have been falling. While FoHW can inform NYC about such occurrences, actually dealing with these issues is not within the remit of FoHW and legal responsibility for safety across the site lies with NYC not with FoHW.

7.

Quarry Moor

The Lower Ure Conservation Trust at Nosterfield has taken on the management of Quarry Moor Nature Reserve as an outreach project, and the site is now receiving more visible management.

8.

Management Plan

The FoHW Management Plan has been circulated to members who are invited to make any comments by 17th April before the Plan is submitted at the end of the month.

9.

Forest School

Jane attended a Harrogate and District Community Action meeting for ideas on how to advertise the Forest School for better attendance. At present the trustees have not yet decided whether to fund the event again this year. A decision will be made at the next Trustees Meeting. There is a possibility of an alternative event to be put on in the summer or next year if members show interest in volunteering. Such an event could be chosen to partner events being held elsewhere in Ripon or tied in with activities by the Panthers Club.

Meeting closed at 8 pm