

FoSC –May 2017 Activity Bulletin

Dear Friends,

Please note the following key activities for May:

- **Task Calendar, May 2017** – Another busy month ahead including two ‘Sheep Days’ and some work on the reed beds near Concord Pond. It does help with the planning if you could provide an early indication of your availability either to this email address or direct to John Hilton. As always we welcome new faces, no previous experience required!
- **Spreading the word** – We have been approached by the Reserve Warden for Moor House – Upper Teesdale, a Natural England NNR in the northeast with an interest in setting up a Friends Groups for their Reserve. We shall be discussing a way forward at the next FoSC Committee meeting in May with a view to sharing learning and experience
- **FoSC/Escrick Park Estate/NE liaison meeting** – We have an annual 3-way meeting to discuss key activities and issues taking place in and around the NNR. The next meeting is due to take place later this month and if you have any issues you would wish John Hilton to raise please can you inform him no later than 5 May
- Our April **Newt Identification evening workshop** was a great success – although we didn’t see very many newts, we certainly learned a lot! Did you know that some of our young toads can be brick-red in colour? If you want to know more about this and other amphibians, go to freshwaterhabitats.org.uk and search for the Amphibian ID guide. Our thanks again to our FHT colleagues for organising the event.
- **Monthly litter picking?** The left-overs from human activity can look really unsightly even on a beautiful Reserve. FoSC members often ‘bag it’ as they walk, but we are thinking of organising our litter picking activities on a more formal, regular basis. Let us know what you think.
- **Anti social behaviour** - sadly this problem remains and we ask you to be watchful when on the Reserve and, if you notice anything suspicious, to get in touch with the Police (by dialling 101) but please don’t put yourselves at risk at any time. It would also be helpful if you could inform me via the FoSC email address. Recent evidence suggests that some litter may be related to substance abuse, so please take special care.



Some useful contacts:

| About | Name | Email |
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| General enquiries about FoSC | Clare Batty FoSC Secretary | frskipcom@btinternet.com |
| Enquiries about FoSC Task Days | John Hilton | John.hilton26@btinternet.com |
| Enquiries about FoSC Walks, Talks and Events | Clare Batty | frskipcom@btinternet.com |
| Natural England – Lower Derwent Valley | Craig Ralston | Craig.ralston@naturalengland.org.uk |
| Natural England – Skipwith Common NNR | Fallon Mahon | Fallon.mahon@naturalengland.org.uk |
| Escrick Park Estate | Office | enquiries@escrick.com |
| Animal welfare issues - Exmoor ponies - Hebridean sheep | John Atkinson | Johnatkinson@whiterosesheepdogs.com |
| Animal welfare crime | Sarah Ward, PC 1238 | Sarah.ward@northyorkshire.pnn.police |
| Vandalism/anti-social behaviour | North Yorkshire Police | Sarah.ward@northyorkshire.pnn.police North Yorks Police, dial 101 |