



# Carlisle Natural History Society

In search of nature since **1893**

## Newsletter – May 2021

### Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30pm**.

We appreciate that not all members have the technology, but it is still possible to join and participate via a telephone link. The 'live' link will be sent by email five days prior to the meeting.

Access to the meeting is as follows:

Carlisle Natural History Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Carlisle Nats AGM

Time: Jun 23, 2021 07:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96259350260?pwd=M0Nyck1vRTIxRmRyXR5TINZM2Z4dz09>

Meeting ID: 962 5935 0260

Passcode: 026070

One tap mobile

+442080806591,,96259350260#,,,\*026070# United Kingdom

+442080806592,,96259350260#,,,\*026070# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 962 5935 0260

Passcode: 026070

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aeCYyi3K8a>

All current Council Members and Officers are offering themselves for re-election.

Council comprises

**President:** Frank Mawby

**Secretary:** Mike Abbs

**Treasurer:** Anne Abbs

**Talks Secretary:** Sam Griffin

**Recorder:** Guy Broome

**Lakeland Naturalist Editor:** David Clarke

**Publicity Officer:** Donna Salter

**Members:** Stuart Colgate, Russell Gomm, Stephen Hewitt, Geoff Horne, Dorothy Iveson,

Jeremy Roberts, Steve Trotter.

Robin Hodgson has resigned from Council and we thank him for his service to the Society.  
(No vacancies arise on Council.)

## **Agenda**

1. Minutes of AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (a copy of the minutes and the financial statement can be supplied on request from Mike Abbs using email: info@carlislenats.uk)
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Secretary's Report
4. President's Report
5. Election of Officers and Council
6. Any Other Business
  - 6.1. The Society library

**Please notify** Secretary Mike Abbs of any other items for AOB prior to the meeting please.

## **Presentation following the AGM**

Jeremy Roberts will give a presentation '*Memories of the Brazilian Pantanal*'.

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## **Autumn Programme 2021/22**

Indoor meetings will resume, Covid regulations permitting, at Tullie House on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Full details will be announced in early September.

## **Email Communication**

For everyone with the technology, email is now our principal means of communication. Thank you to all renewing members who have supplied their email addresses.

Members without email will be kept informed by post.

Note: emails to the membership will be sent 'bcc' ('blind carbon copy') to reduce risk of addresses being spammed, and to keep your personal email address private.

The name of the email originator will be the sender line. The subject will be in the email title.

Newsletters will be as PDF attachments.

## **Winter Talks programme, 2020/2021**

I hope everyone who signed in enjoyed our winter programme, notwithstanding the occasional technical glitch. Watching talks by other organisations, even the seemingly well-organised and slick ones, I know they did not escape the vagaries of poor connections and technical hiccups.

I wish to thank Donna Salter for a tremendous effort putting the programme together and making it work and to Steve Trotter for facilitating the use of the Cumbria Wildlife Trust 'Go to Meeting' facility to run the talks. Steve put in much time with each speaker ensuring the technology worked.

Feedback was much appreciated, and the talks were well received. The web site catch-up facility has been well used too.

## **Website**

We have moved our web hosting. The process involved registering a new domain name, [www.carlislenats.uk](http://www.carlislenats.uk). The change went well with only minor glitches and is now operating normally. The old website and contact emails no longer exist.

## **Facebook and Twitter**

We have two Facebook sites and a Twitter site. One Facebook site is 'members only', the other is 'public'. Regarding the members site, we have been very understanding of the issues caused by

covid. However, as we return to normality in the autumn, people who do not renew their membership will lose access to the members Facebook page. Council member Donna Salter manages these sites. Our 'public' site has a good following and members are urged to consider posting interesting wildlife photos to this site, preferably via Donna. It has potential for recruiting new members.

**Contact Donna via:** [info@carlislenats.uk](mailto:info@carlislenats.uk)

#### ***Lakeland Naturalist***

David Clarke is now seeking articles and short notes for the Autumn 2021 edition (Vol. 9 no. 2). The deadline will be 1<sup>st</sup> September for publication in October.

#### **Records**

Our preferred method for records is either via iRecord or to Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre. Our Recorder Guy Broome also takes records from the Facebook page. If you are using iRecord please note that you now need to tick a box at the top of the first page if you wish the record to be visible to either of our 'Activities' – otherwise we do not see them. If you are not signed up to our iRecord 'Activities' – i.e. 'all records' and 'last two weeks records' (the latter helps with reporting records to indoor meetings) – contact Frank or Guy for an invitation to join.

Records may also be sent using the website email: [recorder@carlislenats.uk](mailto:recorder@carlislenats.uk)

**Bird records** – we have agreed with Cumbria Bird Club that we shall urge members to download and use the Bird Club spreadsheet for recording. See Cumbria Bird Club website:

<https://www.cumbriabirdclub.org.uk>

**iNaturalist** – we are aware some members may be using iNaturalist. We shall not see or be notified of these records. We shall be unable to report notable records in *Lakeland Naturalist*. If you have noteworthy records, please send them to Guy Broome.

**Contact Guy at:** [recorder@carlislenats.uk](mailto:recorder@carlislenats.uk)

**NB:** Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre mainly promote use of iRecord and do import records from that source. They do check iNaturalist and encourage its use for some projects but do not import such records to their database.

**Society emails:** please note that the society emails are received by the following Council Officers:

[info@carlislenats.uk](mailto:info@carlislenats.uk) – Mike Abbs, Frank Mawby, Donna Salter

[recorder@carlislenats.uk](mailto:recorder@carlislenats.uk) for records only: Guy Broome and Frank Mawby

## **Carlisle Natural History Society – Field Meetings Summer 2021**

(The programme is dependent on the covid restriction regulations being lifted as planned for mid-June)

### **27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (Sunday)**

#### **The Clouds – geology and landscape**

Leaders: Peter & Sylvia Woodhead. Meet at 10.30 am at grid reference NY734006, Fell End quarry, near the north end of The Street, just off the A683. Walking up to 5 miles, some steep slopes, may be slippery. Walking boots advisable. Bring lunch.

The leaders plan to follow 'A Walk on the Clouds', a walk which was designed by, and a leaflet written by, Dr Helga Frankland. This has been updated since she died, as a form of memorial to her passion for this area adjacent to Ravenstonedale.

The Wildlife Trust has published copies and members attending are encouraged to purchase copies, which will be available on the day, as a contribution to the Trust.

For pre-visit enquiries Sylvia and Peter may be contacted on 01539 532496

**This trip will be limited to maximum of 20 people. Please book with Frank phone 016973 51301, mobile 07970206164 or email: fjmawby@redshank.org.uk**

### **4<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (Sunday)**

#### **Lake District Wildlife Park – hay meadows flora and fauna**

**Leader: Lucy Dunn (Lake District Wildlife Park). Contact Frank Mawby see above.**

Lucy writes:

"Meet at the Lake District Wildlife Park, Armathwaite Hall Estate, Bassenthwaite, CA12 4RD. Grid reference: NY205328 at 10.00 am (visit all day till about 3.00 pm).

NB. Lunch will be provided but please bring your own drinks.

The Lake District Wildlife Park is on the Armathwaite Hall Estate and manages 27 hectares of upland hay meadow under the Higher-Level Stewardship Scheme, which currently runs until 2024. There are three main fields that are managed to enhance biodiversity by using low impact farming practices with reduced grazing by native breeds (Belted Galloway cattle and Soay sheep). The aim of the meeting is to identify and list the flora and fauna we find on the day.

In 2019 we started to survey the hay meadows to gain an overall understanding of what plants we have growing on the site. The first year this was done using the rapid assessment method with 1metre square quadrats. In 2020 a more random approach was used by simply recording what was found. We are pleased with what we have recorded so far, but more eyes and expert knowledge are always welcome!

In 2021 we want to adopt a random approach again, looking to gain more understanding of the diversity of species that we have on the hay meadows. This includes plants, wildflowers, insects and anything else of interest. Botanists, and entomologists would be most welcome, but hobbyists and anyone with an interest in natural history is just as welcome to come and learn."

### **25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (Wednesday)**

#### **Bats at Watchtree Nature Reserve**

**Leader: Sam Griffin. (enquiries to Frank Mawby see above)**

Meet at Watchtree Nature Reserve, CA5 6NL at 6.45 pm. Reserve entrance: grid reference NY305538. (between Kirkbampton and Wiggonby).

The aim is to check a few boxes and look at bats in the hand until sunset at 8:22 pm and then to walk round the site for the next hour until dark using bat detectors to check for species flying. At least 7 species have been recorded here.

### **5<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (Sunday)**

#### **Campfield Marsh RSPB Reserve: Moths and Birds.**

**Leaders: Guy Broome, Mike and Anne Abbs (tel: 016973 51722)**

Meet at 9.00 am at the car park at North Plain Farm, grid reference NY197614.

If weather conditions are suitable moth traps will be run over the previous night and the contents examined on Sunday morning, prior to a walk around the reserve or along the coast to search for birds, particularly for waders heading south following the breeding season. If the weather is good, then late season dragonflies may be another focus.

Walking will be on flat terrain but if there has been recent heavy rain there may be muddy conditions. A morning event is planned but attendees may wish to bring lunch to enable them to explore the Solway area independently afterwards.