

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023

A gentle nudge that early payment of subscriptions for the new year would be much appreciated by Brian, our Treasurer. He will be at our monthly meetings. Alternatively they can be sent to Brian Ribbands, Queenamidda, Rendall, KW17 2PA. Fees, as last year, are:-

Adult £10: Families £15: Concessionary £6 and Students £3.

RECORDS

It would be much appreciated if records for 2022 could be sent to the relevant recorders as soon as practicable after the year's end. The contact details of all the recorders can be found in the 2022 Bulletin - The Orkney Naturalist. The Bulletin also gives details of the form in which a record is best given.

THE BULLETIN

The editor, John Crossley, is keen that the annual Bulletin has as great a contribution from members as possible. Articles for the next edition would therefore be most welcome. For example interesting observations; favourite walks/places for wildlife; getting started with recording would all be grist to the mill. Contact John with your ideas for short or longer pieces at North Flaws, South Ronaldsay KW17 2RW or by email at flawsjohn@gmail.com

Answers

1 kcoodoow 2 nrettib 3 packcalb 4 gnilbmarb 5 esoog elcanrab 6 noegiw 7 kcuod deliat-gnol
8 eyenedlog 9 revid nrehtron taerg 10 tiwdog deliat-rab 11 eporalahp yerg 12 llug suocualg
13 llug dnaleci 14 gnitnub won's 15 gniwxaw 16 erafdleif 17 gniwder 18 hcnifwah
19 repipdnas elprup 20 sibi yssolg

Wishing all our members a very happy Christmas
and a wonderful 2023

Orkney Field Club

Founded in 1959
Aim: To encourage the study and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the County.



Orkney Field Club is a Registered Scottish Charity and SCIO No. SCO12459

Newsletter December 2022

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (Further details of all these and other events will be circulated by email to all members).

December 19th: *“Guide in a Hide”* The next two joint OFC/RSPB bird watching sessions will be at the Barnhouse Hide from 10.00-13.00. These sessions are led by Mike Gee and are aimed at helping beginner birdwatchers with bird identification as well as general birding enjoyment. It is planned to continue these sessions monthly on the first and third Mondays throughout 2023. Venues will change from time to time and, health/weather permitting, may be substituted by walks. These details will be communicated by both the RSPB and OFC using the usual means (email, Facebook, website) nearer the time.

January 20th: *‘An Update on the Orkney Native Wildlife Project’*

The Friends Room, St. Magnus Centre. 7.30pm. This will also be available on Zoom.

Tom Hadley from ONWP will give an update on progress.

January 22nd: *‘Mid-Winter Ramble’*: Local weather will determine choice of route, but expect to cover a short distance (2-4 miles) with plenty of time to seek out any winter flora and fauna. Leader Anne Gascoigne will give details by email and Facebook nearer the time.

February/March: *‘Hoy Mountain Hare Trip’*: Jenny Taylor will lead this very popular excursion to Hoy to see Mountain Hares still in their winter coats - last year we also saw a Golden Eagle. This event is very weather dependent so the date will be announced at short notice.

February 24th: 'Nature Showcase': Three short presentations highlighting Orkney plants and wildlife. The Friends Room, St. Magnus Centre. 7.30pm. This will also be available on Zoom.

March 17th: An Obsession with Ash - Jim Pratt, a retired forestry Plant Pathologist tells us about his never ending interest in Ash trees, their history, Ash Dieback disease and his study of their flowering. By Zoom only.

April 7th: A talk from Orkney Marine Mammal Research Initiative on the Longhope Harbour Porpoise Project. The Friends Room, St. Magnus Centre. 7.30pm. This will also be available on Zoom.

Spring/early Summer: A trip to our special native woodland of Berriedale. Sadly the proposal to hold this exciting event in Autumn 2022 was scuppered by appalling weather. It is hoped to put it on sometime in this period - details to follow nearer the time.

May: *Orkney Nature Festival:* The OFC contribution to this event has yet to be decided. Suggestions from members are most welcome - especially if it could be something that appeals to families. This festival is an important part of the Orkney calendar. Our Russadale walk last year was much enjoyed and appreciated.

Late May/June: *Bioblitz:* After the success of last autumn's bioblitz at the Stromness reservoir it is planned to repeat it at this very different season. It is a very interesting site with lots of interest to botanists, entomologists, birdwatchers etc. With fair weather it is also a great site for a picnic. Details to follow nearer the time.

THE COMMITTEE for 2022/2023

Helen Aiton (Chair)

John Crossley (Vice Chair)

Graeme Walker (Secretary)

Brian Ribbands (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)

Keith Fairclough, Anne Gascoigne, Michael Gee, Penny Martin,

Jenny Taylor, Alexandra Wright.



Avian Winter Visitors Festive Word Game

Our new Chair has devised a fiendish anagram based word game to get your brain working hard.

Example:healthierswotters (6,11) is Lesser Whitethroat

- 1 cowdocok (8)
- 2 ribtent (7)
- 3 calbpack (8)
- 4 bringlamb (9)
- 5 anabelscrooge (8,5)
- 6 ginwoe (6)
- 7 caulkingtoddle (4-6,4)
- 8 geneyodel (9)
- 9 harringtonreverted (5,8,5)
- 10 broadtailwidge (3-6,6)
- 11 eagarlyhopper (4,9)
- 12 clausgoglulu (8,4)
- 13 allelicdung (7,4)
- 14 gownnitsnub (4,7)
- 15 axnwwig (7)
- 16 alderfife (9)
- 17 digwren (7)
- 18 fanwhich (8)
- 19 pippaplunderers (6,9)
- 20 blissyogis (6,4)

Answers (reading backwards) on the last page