

Activities August-December



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Contact details

Committee members

The Anatomy of a Sheffield Folder

A talk by Grace Horne

Wednesday 4th August

7:30 - 9:30pm

Bents Green Methodist Church
Ringinglow Road



Before the talk we will have our Open Meeting.

After the talk, tea and biscuits, and a chance to chat with the committee and other members.

FoPV Calendar 2011

Where are the stunning photographs from FoPV members for next year's calendar? I appealed in the last issue of the Newsletter, but the response has been sparse. There is a variety of subjects in the valley for inspiration, including the Shepherd Wheel work. Photographs do not have to be taken by members; friends' and family's snapshots are all welcome.

Photographs can be passed to any committee member or could be sent initially by email to: fotpvcommemb@gmail.com as JPEGs, with a file size not greater than 100 kb. Technical advice is readily available from Tony Marsh (0114 230 1077).

Send us your photographs, please!

Maggie Marsh

In the newsletter

Footsoldier 1

Shepherd Wheel Restoration Project 1

Benches and Forge Dam 2

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When and where	What and Who
Wednesday 4 th August, 7.30 pm Bents Green Methodist Church Hall	"The Anatomy of a Sheffield Folder" A talk by Grace Horne (postponed from February)
Saturday 7 th August, 10.30 am Forge Dam Café to Endcliffe Park Café	"Annie's August Amble from 'C' to 'C' " looking at changes in the valley. <i>Dogs and children welcome</i>
Saturday 11 th September, 7.30 pm Forge Dam Café	"Bat Watch" A walk led by Derek Whitley. <i>No dogs please</i>
Saturday 25 th September, 11- 6 pm Endcliffe Park	South Yorkshire Wood Fair
Saturday 2 nd October, 10.30 am Wire Mill Dam car park	"Finding Fungi" A walk led by Ziggy Senkens
Sunday 31 st October, 6 - 8 pm Endcliffe Park Café	Halloween party Lanterns & Children's fancy dress competition
Wednesday 3 rd November, 7.30 pm Bents Green Methodist Church Hall	"Sheffield before the Industrial Revolution" Annual General Meeting with a talk by Prof. David Hey
Saturday 6 th November, 10.30 am Wire Mill Dam car park	"Springtails and other mini-beasts" A walk led by Dr Paul Ardron
Saturday 4 th December	Walk tba

Lichen Hunting in the Porter Valley

Dr Paul Ardron led a fascinating walk from Forge Dam up to Mark Lane on 3rd July, enabling people to appreciate some of the great variety of lichens which occur in this relatively short stretch of country. Over 2000 species are known in the U.K and around 500 species occur in the Sheffield area.

Lichens are a mixed bag and don't fit readily into any one group. They are part alga, part fungus, and the two depend on each other for their very existence – a phenomenon known as symbiosis. Some lichens are so inconspicuous that they are easily mistaken as a "dirty mark", or taken to be the weathering products of rocks.

Others form little rosettes - the kind of thing that you brush away before you sit down, or, if you are a geologist, you knock off with your hammer in order to get a good view of the important rock underneath. Oops! The most obvious ones are the hairy, branching ones that were found growing on ash trees, and which were used as the basis for vegetable dyes. Paul stated that Harris Tweed is still made with such natural dyes, although he didn't know if the ancient Hebridean habit of first steeping the lichen in urine still applied!

Paul rattled off quite a lot of Latin names, even when the lichen was out of reach up a tree. These included *Ramelina farinacea* (I think), which is particularly sensitive to atmospheric pollution. This is becoming more abundant in the Porter Valley, and in its way, is as important as Dippers, or Caddis Fly larvae in indicating that the ecology of the valley is in good shape.

All in all, a most interesting walk, and one which rapidly raised the knowledge base of a good many of the party. Paul was given a well deserved round of applause back at Forge Dam, even if it did alarm a few Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)!

Peter Kennett



Shepherd Wheel Sponsored Bike Ride



On the 19th June, led by the Sheffield City Council Rangers, with mechanical support from Pedal Ready, the Sheffield based cycle training organisation; the 7 mile sponsored bike ride began. The participants quickly reached the ford crossing the River Porter at Whiteley Wood Road, which provided some entertainment and wet feet, when most people crossed it on their bikes; others opted for the dryer option of the stepping stones!

Once at Forge Dam the cyclists then ascended steeply out of the Porter Valley, the climb quickly warming those who had grown cold in the stiff breeze. The riders passed through Whirlow Hall Farm and onto Ecclesall Woods where the route took the participants through enchanting ancient woodland and to the Ecclesall Woods Sawmill, where a friendly Ranger was on hand to provide eagerly anticipated refreshments.

After tea and biscuits, the cyclists began the return journey to Shepherd Wheel for the second half of the trip. Upon reaching Whirlow Hall Farm for the second time, the temptation of the farm shop lured in hungry cyclists for flapjacks and biscuits to replace the energy lost on the steep ascent back from Ecclesall Woods. After one final climb to Castle Dyke Playing Fields, to the relief of the riders (and their legs), the rest of the cycle ride was downhill. After a quick descent to the Shepherd Wheel the riders congratulated each other on their achievement.

The participants received £153.37 in sponsorship, which will directly contribute to the restoration of the Shepherd Wheel. Well done to all those who participated and helped organise the event.

Tom Newman

The Committee:

Ann le Sage
Chair
Flora Owen
Secretary / events
David Young
Treasurer
Les Greenwood
Membership Secretary
Ann Granville
Minutes / newsletter
Ros Hancock
Volunteers
Nigel Hopkins
Planning / repairs
Glynis Jones
Newsletter
Maggie Marsh
Education
Tony Marsh
Website Administrator
Chris Nicholson
Shepherd Wheel fundraising
Sue Spence
Fund-raising Secretary