



Newsletter

Rivelin Valley Conservation Group

Summer 2004 no 51

Task News

The last task day saw Keith taking a well-earned break, though whether children's parties are less hassle than coping with us I'm not sure. In any event, we struggled through and finished off the walling at the entrance to Carver Fields, did some fairly serious tree surgery and planted up a further section of the hedge bottom with wild flowers. Those who visit this lovely recreational space are now appreciating the years of work put in by the RVCG to ensure it not only remains as a local leisure facility but is enhanced as a wildlife habitat as well.



The newly reconstructed wall and top gate at Carver Fields off Hagg Lane



Howard Sanderson at the Stannington Show

This winter, we need to continue to develop the Hag Wood scheme to maintain the accessibility, improve the quality of the woodland and ensure it is something pleasant to look at from the Stannington side of the valley.

We also want to make a start on the next Pond project – at Uppercut Wheel together with more woodland management and better access through Millstone Edge.

If you have a pet worry about any particular area of the valley make sure that Roger or Keith have it on the list!

Visits

We had two brilliant trips this summer. The first to Blackburn Meadows – now becoming an oasis in an otherwise wildlife desert under the care of Sheffield Wildlife Trust. We were shown around by the 'Area Ranger' and 'Trust staff' on a lovely July evening and enjoyed the array of flora as well as the avian species for which it is primarily designed. With a bit of pond dipping and opening up of previously laid animal traps, there was a fascination for all.



*The area ranger at
Blackburn Meadows*

Pond dipping – everyone is encouraged to join in and see the wiggly things in detail

The second – to the RSPB Old Moor Wetland site for Sunday lunch with a bit of wildlife viewing thrown in for good measure – is going to have to be repeated. It was such a successful visit. Blessed with a great day weather wise, the first call was coffee on the balcony, from which there is an extensive view over the nature reserve. Eventually, dragging the company away from the comfy chairs, we explored the hides on the reserve and viewed the different habitats you see from each. Especially delightful on a warm July day is the walk around the dragonfly ponds – the wildflowers there are superb. The shop and information centre is a great facility and we all came home with boots full of birdseed, peat-free compost and the occasional singing stuffed toy! Oh, and I didn't mention dinner – I think that's the only reason why some people went at all. The restaurant is excellent. See the current programme and let Roger or Janet know if you feel like joining us in October.

Words by Roger Kite
Pictures by Graham Appleby