



The Puffin Mark Newsletter. Issue 1: November 2012.

Yorkshire Nature Triangle Conference Oct 3rd and 4th at The Spa Bridlington

Glorious weather, an excellent venue and fascinating speakers made for a successful conference. Chairman of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Professor Sir John Lawton and Dr Simon Woodward clearly pointed to the importance of wildlife tourism and a market that is only partly developed. For example 65 to 70% of people living in the Yorkshire area regularly visit the countryside, but only 12% of visits include an aspect of wildlife tourism. The three tours which were offered on the first day were received very enthusiastically by the participants. We had the opportunity to visit Flamborough/Bempton, Hornsea/Spurn or North Cave Wetlands/Tophill Low.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's conference should further spread the word about our area as it was supported by the ERYC, NYCC, DEFRA-RDPE and the EU, RSPB and several LEADER groups, together with delegations from the Hebrides, Portugal, Finland and France. E-On kindly sponsored the conference.

The Puffin Mark Scheme

Over 30 organisations have so far joined the scheme. Colin Bradshaw, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's assessor, says "I've been thrilled by the enthusiasm for wildlife and the determination to share that enthusiasm with visitors to our area. We have hotels, self-catering cottages, bed and breakfasts, farm shops, caravan sites and museums as members. Each one has been visited and the opportunities for seeing wildlife in their locality have been explored. These discussions have also included suggestions by which wildlife might be attracted to that particular site and where appropriate ideas about the content of their website. A massive thank you to everyone." Further information can be obtained at: www.yorkshirenaturetriangle.com

New wildlife developments

In the near future a bird hide will be opened at the south western end of Hornsea Mere (subject to planning), thanks to the generosity of the owners of Wassand Hall, supported by LEADER. Initially, this will be bookable by groups only. It will give an excellent window into the more remote part of the Mere where the wildlife interest is usually greatest.



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has acquired a new property, Skerne Wetlands, near Driffield, which was a fish farm. It will be some time before it is open to the public, but it will be a very exciting reserve, re-creating the former wetland of the River Hull catchment . Watch this space! Keep up to date at: www.ywt.org.uk

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Living Seas Centre at Flamborough South Landing

The new Centre is located at the top of the hill going down to the beach. A brand new building has been erected with refreshments, public toilets, an information area, educational facility and wet room. A formal opening will take place at Easter 2013, but local people are invited to learn more about the centre and become involved either as a user or volunteer from 9th November.



The new manager is Anthony Hurd, who took over the building in mid-October. There will be two Yorkshire Wildlife Trust staff based here throughout the year, who will offer guided tours, family activities and general information. In the summer, snorkelling trips will be on offer to see the rich sub-sea world which lies off Flamborough Head.

Nature Tourism Manager

As well as coordinating the recent conference and promotional work relating to the Yorkshire Nature Triangle (YNT), Martin Batt has also given numerous talks to business groups and parish councils across a wide area. Linked to this is the distribution of Yorkshire Nature Triangle map guides to all the local Tourist Information Centres and other locations, such as libraries. A number of articles have appeared in the region's press and the scheme has been regularly featured on BBC's "Look North". If you would like to know more about the latest developments, please contact Martin on 01904 659570, or by e-mail: martin.batt@ywt.org.uk

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