

**ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S
YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Diocese of York is celebrating 2011 as the Year of the Environment and every church and church school has received a bird box to 'start the year with a chirp'. The Archbishop would like everyone in the Diocese to make a difference to the environment during this year. On Saturday 28 May, 10am-4pm, there will be a day of celebration in York Minster, opened by the Archbishop, with stands from over 60 environmental groups, 15-minute sketches throughout the day from Riding Lights Theatre Company, a mid-day Eucharist and refreshments. There is more information and the full press release on the Archbishop's website.

JOTTINGS . . .

Venues for 2011: these have now been finalised and a poster is enclosed with this newsletter. If you receive it electronically, please, please print it (preferably in colour) and display it at your church or, better still, print/photocopy several to be displayed at local shops etc. **If you are not able to print or photocopy it, please ask for some hard copies—just ring YWT and leave your details. Remember: the monthly clergy mailings are no longer used to distribute the events poster—**

I rely on you to help with publicity.

Email addresses: thank you to those who have sent an email address to save time and money at YWT.

YWT e-newsletter: this is a monthly update on YWT's activities (available only by email). This month's copy is attached to those of you with email. If you would like to be added to its distribution list, just ask.

Advisory visits: there are already names on the list. If you would like an advisory visit, please let me know asap. The visits usually begin in mid-April but Easter is very late this year which will delay our start.

Training courses: information about courses run by environmental organisations regularly arrives at YWT. If there is a particular skill you would like to acquire such as botanical identification, rural skills such as drystone walling, hedge laying, scything or any others, let me know . . .

and here is a training course: join Judith Allinson, Mike Canaway and members of Craven Conservation Group to explore the mosses of the ancient churchyard at Giggleswick on Saturday 12 March at 10.00am. Meet at Settle Swimming Pool (BD24 OBU) to walk to the church as parking in G'wick is limited. They aim to finish by lunchtime so a packed lunch is not needed but elevenses are recommended—and warm clothes. Details from Judith: 01279 822138.

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE . . .

. . . is a charity based in Leominster that does just that—and it has applied for Heritage Lottery funding to become a National Churchyard Project, something we have not had since 1999. This would enable it to expand its work and offer its management advice and courses in rural skills nation-wide. We wish CfGA success in its funding application and we look forward to working with CfGA in Yorkshire.

CHURCHYARD EVENTS . . .

The first event of the season is on 27 March at **Cawood Church**. Joyce Payne who oversees the churchyard is repeating the very successful event she ran last year. Across from the churchyard is the **Cholera Burial Ground** which has been planted out by people from the village so don't miss that.

Allerthorpe Church boasts a wonderful display of daffodils along with its wildlife conservation measures. A lovely churchyard to visit in the spring—10 April.

Finningley Churchyard is a brilliant example of management sympathetic to wildlife and if you have not already been there, put it on your 'must do' list for this year. Tricia Haigh has sent these photographs of last year's wasps' nest and a close-up of the much maligned Rosebay willowherb.



Finningley's Open Weekend will be action packed with guided tours of the church and churchyard, DVDs to watch, nature trails, so don't miss it! 18/19 June.

Welburn Church is very much a newcomer—I made an advisory visit there in January and before they knew it they had agreed to host an Open Churchyard (26 June) by which time the revised mowing regime will have produced a rich and colourful flora. There will be YWT-organised wildlife activities for children too.



Yorkshire Living Churchyard Project

Patron: The Archbishop of York

Spring 2011

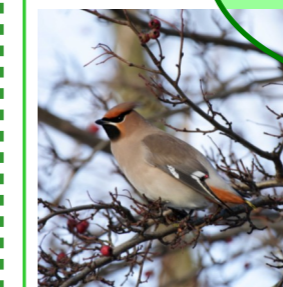
Welcome to the Spring Newsletter 2011 . . .

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- **AND LOTS MORE!**



Tree Creeper
Credit: Neil Aldridge



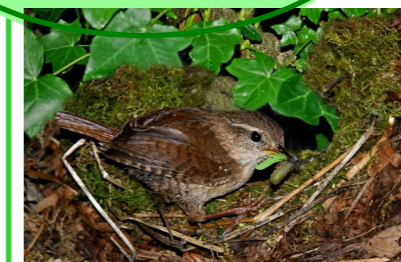
Waxwing
Credit: Carl Watts

- ⇒ Thank you to our contributors — Allison Day of Bees Action Network, Felicity Harris of Plantlife and Canon Gordon Dey from Tong.
- ⇒ Thank you to all who are hosting events this year—more details of these on page 4.
- ⇒ *Please* display the newsletter and the events poster on your church notice board.
- ⇒ *And remember*— if you would like a church-related event publicised between newsletters, just let me know and it can be emailed out.
- ⇒ *Finally, we look forward to seeing you at the events.* *Elizabeth*

**Some of the birds recorded
in our churchyards**



Tree sparrows
Credit: Wildstock



Wren feeding young
Credit: Laurie Ramsay



Dunnock
Credit: Graham Chesters

YORKSHIRE LIVING CHURCHYARD PROJECT

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust ~ 1 St George's Place YORK YO24 1GN

www.ywt.org.uk

Part-time Churchyard Officer ~ Elizabeth Hardcastle
(Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

tel: 01904 659570; email: elizabeth.hardcastle@ywt.org.uk or info@ywt.org.uk

YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST WORKS FOR A YORKSHIRE

RICH IN WILDLIFE ENJOYED BY PEOPLE

BEES ACTION NETWORK (BAN)

Bees Action Network was set up to give practical help now to struggling bees. We will start our Daisy Chain Campaign in London and provide free organic cottage garden plant and wildflower seed to some 2012 allotment holders in London to chime with the 2012 Olympics. We will also be setting up safe havens in areas of unpolluted land for bees and other wildlife.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Living Churchyards initiative is an inspirational idea which we find incredibly exciting. All over the countryside good pure forage and habitat for bees is being increasingly lost and bees are dying off in alarming numbers. This is seen most obviously in honey bees – noticed perhaps because of our close association with them. But other bees are suffering too.

There has been an upsurge of various admirable organisations encouraging people to plant for bees and wildlife, but without specifying **that any seeds or plants should be organic.**

Unfortunately, what we discovered very early on was that the majority of garden centres and nurseries supply conventional seed and plants which may have chemical dressings. In view of the increasing evidence that pesticides and chemicals are implicated in bee death, BAN advocates organic gardening – otherwise we gardeners may well be inadvertently adding to the problem.

These natural churchyard oases amidst a sea of agrichemicals are just what hungry bees, birds and other needy wildlife need. With their abundance of wildflowers and wildlife habitat, alas not seen in any quantity anywhere else, 'God's Acres' will be life-saving wildlife havens, in our forbears' last peaceful and enduring resting places. Forbears who will no doubt be smiling down on Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for its good work!

If gardeners switched to organic methods the crisis affecting bees and other wildlife would be greatly alleviated. Churchyards are God's gardens. 'A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step....' The Living Churchyards project has taken that first step. Let's all follow. Well done Yorkshire Wildlife Trust!

If you want to know more about the bees and the environmental crisis, please visit

www.beesactionnetwork.org

ALLISON DAY

Plantlife and The Bees Action Network (BAN) were two organisations to contact us after we appeared on Countryfile last summer

PLANTLIFE

Do you remember holding a buttercup under a friend's chin to see if they liked butter? Or picking petals from a daisy and chanting "he loves me, he loves me not"? These memories of childhood may seem to have little to do with plant conservation, but there is no doubt that playing games and spending time outdoors help to open our eyes to the natural world.

Conservation charity Plantlife (www.plantlife.org.uk) is involved in a range of projects and activities including practical conservation of plants and their habitats, and on speaking up for the nation's wild plants through lobbying, campaigning and education initiatives. For many years Plantlife has also been encouraging the public to collect data so that the state of the nation's flora can be monitored through the Wildflowers Count survey, formerly Common Plants Survey.



Plantlife ID at Great Billing

Through the Wild About Plants project (www.wildaboutplants.org.uk) Plantlife is working with children and communities,

including those who may not have the confidence or opportunity to learn about those all important buttercups and daisies. A survey designed specifically for children, Bee Scene, sees children getting to know their local wild space, building their knowledge of wildflowers and above all enjoying being outside. This year's survey is launched on 1 April.

The Wild About Plants project has also been working with parents and younger children to build parents' confidence so that they are more likely to get outside for family time. A new set of fun activity cards, Flower Keys, helps children and parents discover the great outdoors.

The project also has a free quarterly e-learning bulletin 'Pioneer' which featured Yorkshire in February 2011. This bulletin is inspiring people to learn and talk about wildflowers and also to explore their local wild spaces. In Yorkshire there are Wild About Plants events throughout the year at Foxglove Covert National Nature Reserve in Catterick.

If you would like more information about Wild About Plants activities, please visit the project website or email Felicity.Harris@plantlife.org.uk



Darlington Plantlife UK

THE QUIET GARDEN MOVEMENT

The Autumn newsletter carried an article about the Quiet Garden Movement. One of the several Quiet Gardens in Yorkshire is the Spiritual Garden at St James' Church, Tong

S. JAMES' CHURCH TONG is a 'jewel in the crown' of Tong Village, a conservation area set between Leeds and Bradford, and a place of considerable heritage and historical interest. The church was rebuilt in 1727, and still retains its Georgian fittings and furnishings, in addition to earlier features from Norman and medieval times. Evidence of a Saxon church from an even earlier period was confirmed by an extensive archaeological survey that took place in 1980.



Healing Station

The church yard was closed for burials over 100 years ago, and in 2004 the church community decided to remodel the grounds to enable it to be more of a 'spiritual garden' and provide a circular 'spiritual walk' around the church, that would have a Celtic character to reflect the church's origins. Paths and stone circles with reflective inscriptions and seating with

biblical references were put in place, together with special features at each of the eight 'stations' that lie on the path. Wildlife areas have been preserved, and additional appropriate planting included that coincides with the 'stations'. The church family now lovingly tend the 'garden', and steadily improve it.

Visitors are welcome, and can benefit from the fascinating features of the village, as well as the church and church grounds. Leaflets are available that guide the visitor around the 'Walk' – and the church is open on Sundays. For more information contact Canon Gordon Dey – e mail: gordon.dey@bradford.anglican.org



Paths in progress

WEBSITES (Google the blue title)

The Church of England: free monthly e-bulletin full of information

Shrinking the Footprint: CoE's Environmental Campaign has a section 'How wild is your churchyard?'

The Real Easter Egg: a Fair Trade egg, the only one ever to mention Jesus and the meaning of Easter

Christian Ecology Link

The Conservation Foundation

Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC); Woodland Trust

THE BROWN HARE

By Stephen Tapper and Derek Yalden

Latest book in the Mammal Society series on British mammals. Fully illustrated, available from www.mammal.org.uk or by ringing the sales office 01278 641747

**The Mammal Society
3 The Carronades
New Road
SOUTHAMPTON
SO14 OAA**

FUNDING

A question that crops up again and again is that of FUNDING. The charity Caring for God's Acre has compiled the following:

AWARDS FOR ALL (Lottery grants for local groups)

Supports a wide variety of projects which involve the community. Grants are available for publicity, professional fees, research, transport, equipment and materials.

For information tel 0845 002040 www.awardsforall.org.uk

£300-£10,000 (England and Scotland)
£500-£5,000 (Wales)

Ongoing

You will be told if your application is successful or not within eight weeks.

GRASSROOTS GRANTS

Operates throughout England and is administered at a local level by various funders. Grassroots Grants can offer between £250 and £5,000 to small grassroots community and voluntary groups

Who is eligible for a Grassroots Grant?

The types of group or organisation that Grassroots grants can fund will:

- be a locally managed voluntary or community group
- active in their local community for not less than 12 months prior to making an application Volunteer led and can evidence income of less than £30,000 per annum
- be connected with and/or meeting the needs of the local community
- have a set of rules/governing document

Some examples of what can be funded:

- The purchase of equipment, like a computer or tools
- The costs of putting on a local event or workshop
- The cost of attending a conference or event
- Training for volunteers
- Activities that support community activity

To find your local grassroots grant funder contact your local Community Council or Local Authority Office.

Many thanks to Caring for God's Acre for this information.