

# THE BERWICKSHIRE NATURALISTS' CLUB

Instituted 22 September 1831



June 2021

Dear Members

Following a very enjoyable trip to Hethpool which complied with the Covid regulations as they applied to Northumberland our next planned activities take us to Scotland where different rules exist.

Level one, which applies to the Borders and East Lothian, permits twelve people to meet socially outside. This obviously affects those of our activities which involve any form of guided tour or talk. Because we feel that we should allow as many members as possible to enjoy our planned visit to **Cove**, initially scheduled for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Ben Tindall has kindly allowed us to postpone this trip until the rules allow a higher level of attendance.

The trip to **Siccar Point** on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, will involve two parties of twelve in separate boats. For most of the voyage the crew will be in the wheelhouse whilst members will be in the open air. We feel that this complies with the current regulations and that this outing can still take place. National Trust for Scotland and the National Garden Scheme (Scotland) are actively promoting visits by individuals to their venues, and this reassures us that we can accept Simon Furness's generous offer to open **Netherbyres** to members on the afternoon of the Siccar point trip.

Please note that there are two separate visits on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and whilst the number who can participate in the boat trip is strictly limited the afternoon visit is open to all.

## Events in June and July

### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June

#### ONLINE TALK

2:00 a.m. Via Zoom.

"Twixt thistle and Rose" by Linda Bankier.

The Berwick Archivist will tell us more about the project to re-catalogue the Berwick Borough Archives.

The Zoom link will be emailed to members on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

### SICCAR POINT (BY BOAT)

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the top of the walkway to the pontoon in Eyemouth Harbour. (NT946642). (/// spoons.afraid.sung)

James Hutton, father of modern geology, visited Siccar Point by boat in 1788, an event which led to a profound change in the way the history of the Earth was understood. A man ahead of his time, James Hutton used the evidence from Siccar Point to decode Earth processes and to argue for a much greater length of geological time than was popularly accepted. This trip will give members the opportunity to see the spectacular junction between two distinctive types of rock, just as Hutton himself found it. We are very lucky to have two geologists, Alison Tymon and Ian Kille, who have kindly offered to act as our guides on this trip. We should be at sea for about three hours.

### Directions

The best approach to Eyemouth, irrespective of the direction from which you are travelling, is via the A1107. From the north on the A1 the turning left on to the A1107 is immediately after the Eye Water Bridge. From the south the right turn is just past the junction for Ayton. There is very clear signage from either direction. After about 1.6 miles and a sweeping left hand bend you will arrive at a crossroad with a small sign directing you to the Harbour. Turn right. You are now on the B6355. After about 0.5 miles Eyemouth Parish Church will appear on your left, bear right and head down the slope, Harbour Road, and you will see the Harbour car park ahead of you. Opposite the car park entrance is the start of the Harbour Wall. Walk along the wall for about 150 yards and you will find the walkway to the pontoon. Please wait there while we arrange boarding.

We will be sailing on the Oceanic and the Sagittarius under the command of Derek “The Godfather” Anderson. Both boats have lavatories and facilities for making hot drinks. The cost per person will GBP 20-25 depending on the price of diesel. Payable on the day. In the event of foul weather, we will have to postpone this trip.

Eyemouth contains a variety of catering outlets, but members could also take a picnic on the boat.

### Covid compliance

Each boat will carry a party of eleven plus a geologist. Please try and “number off” before assembling above the pontoon to avoid mingling, or is it “minglin’” nowadays.

If you wish to participate in this trip please email [chrisnevilletaylor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisnevilletaylor@yahoo.co.uk)

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

### NETHERBYRES GARDEN TD14 5SE

Meet at 2:00 p.m. outside Garden House (NT944636)

An unusual elliptical walled garden, dating from 1740, with a mixture of flowers, fruit and vegetables. A very old pear tree, possibly dating from the 18th century, and the largest rose in Berwickshire, *Rosa filipes* 'Kiftsgate'. Also a wide variety of roses and herbaceous borders. Simon Furness has kindly offered to open the garden to members on this afternoon.

### Directions

From the Harbour return to the A1107. Turn left and then, immediately after crossing the River Eye, turn right into the gates of the estate. After 50 yards turn left, signed "Garden House" and park on the grass in front of the house.

There are toilets in the house and the terrain should be suitable for wheelchairs. All members are welcome, and no registration is required. There is no charge for this visit but there will be a collecting tin for Scotland's Garden Scheme.

### Covid compliance

Please remember that you are visiting this garden as individuals, not as a group.

## **All our Yesterdays**

The first visit that Berwickshire Naturalists made to Siccar Point took place in June 1835

The June meeting took place at Head Chesters, and whether we view the district with the eye of a naturalist, or as a mere lover of the picturesque, there is perhaps no spot we could name in preference to it. The bold and beautiful boundary of the " vast and mighty deep," so well known to geologists, the dark and deeply wooded glen of the Pease Burn, the high and scantily clothed heights above Old Cambus, furnish a variety of scenery, either taken conjointly or separately, which few districts can boast of. In the walk between the Siccar Point and the mouth of the Pease Burn, the *Astragalus glycyphylus* was observed in several places by that acute botanist Dr Greville, whose presence added not a little to the pleasures of the day. A species of *Hieracium*, which remains to be determined, was observed in several places, and in great profusion.

## Contact Us

If you need any further information regarding the Club's planned activities, please contact:

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