



Nature Recovery in North Duffield and Skipwith – Autumn 2026

News: Do you think butterfly numbers have increased or decreased over the last fifty years? When Nick Hall of Butterfly Conservation posed this question to us we were surprised to learn that species numbers have increased: climate change means Yorkshire has gained a new species of butterfly roughly every three years since the 1980s, with species like the Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Orange Tip, and more recently the Silver-washed Fritillary becoming regular visitors. What's more, common butterfly species in Yorkshire gardens have roughly doubled in abundance compared to the lows of the mid-20th century. Good news!

Saturday 19 September from 10.00 am 'Fog' Day – Science initiative with University of Reading - Community Engagement Day – Surprise yourself at how interested you and your children and grandchildren can be in science! All are welcome to a fascinating interactive day at Skipwith Village Hall, which explains the intriguing project being set up by leading UK climate scientists taking place on our doorstep on Skipwith Common!

Tuesday 20th October 7.30pm North Duffield Village Hall. The North Duffield Conservation and Local History Society is inviting everyone to their talk by Sue Morgan, CEO of SongBird Survival. The charity's mission is saving songbirds through science; they are "working to change the future of songbirds by funding research into the causes of the decline, and creating solutions". SongBird Survival - UK wide charity for songbirds <https://share.google/qpppvmlGQWYyZH8NWp> has a lot of useful information. £3 for non-members.

Saturday 7th November 10.00am – Skipwith's 'BNG' project. Mark Hewitt of Escrick Park Estate will talk us through the Estate's major new environmental rehabilitation project involving wetlands, small fields and lowland heath with the help of video and display boards, repeating and adding updates to the presentation in Skipwith Village Hall in June. The project is funded via the government's new Biodiversity Net Gain scheme. Venue to be confirmed: To help us decide do let us know if you are interested in attending? Email rosalind@escrick.com or reply on What's App – apply Sally Smart srsaxton@gmail.com to join .

Top Tips for September/October: Hedgehogs have had a difficult summer but there have been several sightings of hoglets. Help them prepare for hibernation by providing a supply of fresh water, not milk, and consider providing food. Kitten kibble is good, as is hedgehog food such as Brambles from RSPB. Avoid anything with fish or gravy. Be extra careful when strimming, mowing, or turning a compost heap. Burn any fires immediately after building them. Even better leave the wood and leaves and trimmings in a pile in a quiet corner for them. Hedgehog-friendly gardening / RHS Gardening <https://share.google/SZfLHS83SicQkUFEb>

Future events: If you have any questions, would like updates or to share your ideas re future events - very much welcomed - please email rosalind@escrick.com or blake5rg@btinternet.com. If you share your number we'll be happy to call you back.

