



## ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

### October 2022 Newsletter

#### Oct Dates

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Oct : Society Meal : Rochdale Masonic Hall : 6.30pm

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Oct : Indoor Meeting : Galls : Cutgate : 7.30pm

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Oct : Coach Trip : Grassington : 9.00am

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Oct : Local Walk : Wince Brook : 10.30am

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Oct : Piethorne Fungi Survey : 10.00am

Advanced Info : Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Dec : Walk & Festivities : Bacup : 10.00am

Keep an eye on your email, our website and Facebook page for any updates to these proposed events.

[www.rochdalefieldnaturalists.org.uk](http://www.rochdalefieldnaturalists.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/groups/965410946937744/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/965410946937744/)

#### Society Meal : Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Oct : Rochdale Masonic Hall : 6.30pm

Our Society Meal at Rochdale Masonic Hall is on Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Oct, 6.30 for 7.00pm.

The Masonic Hall is on Richard St behind the old fire station a few minutes' walk from the Railway Station and Tram & Bus Stops. It also has a large car park. More info on their website [www.rochdalemasonicballroom.co.uk](http://www.rochdalemasonicballroom.co.uk)

#### Indoor Meeting : Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Oct : 7.30pm : "Galls" – Hilary Bedford

We are pleased to welcome our speaker this month, Hilary Bedford. Her talk will be about Plant Galls, how they form and how we can recognise them. As well as the talk Hilary will bring some specimens that we can have a closer look at under the microscope. This is a great time of year for spotting galls so if you have found any specimens and want to bring them along, we will try to identify them.



Hopefully we will be able to spot some more

galls on our local walk at Wince Brook on Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. See details below.

Members £3 per meeting, Non-Members £4 per meeting. Tea, coffee and cake available – please make a donation towards cost.

Our indoor meetings are held at Cutgate Baptist Church, Edenfield Road, Rochdale, OL11 5AQ. For those of you who have not been before there is parking on the Cutgate shopping precinct and the Norden bus stops near the church.

Thank you to all those members who helped with setting up and tidying away last month, and with serving refreshments. We hope you will be able to help again this month.

Linda Turner : Co-chair

### **Coach Trip : Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Oct : Grassington : 9.00am : John & Shirley Hall**

Meet at Manchester Road Cul-de-Sac, Rochdale OL11 4HY. The coach will leave at **9.00am prompt**. John and Shirley will lead our walk at Grassington in the Yorkshire Dales. This is a circular walk of 5 miles with a shorter option.

The first part is along the side of the river following it to the hamlet of Hebden where there is a pub and a very busy tea shop. This is approximately the half way point.



For the shorter option, start on the riverside path and retrace your steps when you have had enough and go back into Grassington.

Leaving Hebden the walk continues through fields and the wooded area at Grassington Park Estate and Meadows, the site of the old Grassington Hospital which is now a hotel. A walled track leads to the top part of Grassington and the main street with its many cafes and cake shops.

The coach will leave at 4.45pm to return to

Rochdale.

**\*To book a place on the coach please contact [rfnspublicity@gmail.com](mailto:rfnspublicity@gmail.com). It**

**helps us if you please pay your £20 beforehand by bank transfer:**

**Sort Code 05-07-67, Account Number 60931963. Please use your name as a reference. Some people have just been sending in their payment to the bank but our systems are not high tech enough for this information to be automatically passed on to bookings!**

**If paying on the day we prefer a cheque made payable to "Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society", so the treasurer isn't carrying large sums of cash.**

**Spaces may be available on the day but there is no guarantee, so those who have booked and paid (or indicated they will pay by cheque) will be given priority.\***

### **Local Walk : Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Oct : Wince Brook : 10.30am : Charlie Farrell**

Following on from the indoor event on Plant Galls on the 13<sup>th</sup> Oct, there will be a local walk around Wince Brook LNR on the following Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> Oct, where we will focus on following up on what we have learnt. Wince Brook is an area of former farmland running from Kirkway in Alkrington along the course of the river to Greengate at the Chadderton end. The area is well served with paths and boardwalks which have been re-surfaced in



recent years and which generally run close to the banks of the Brook. Away from the paths, the more wooded areas tend to be found on sloping banks and generally contain native deciduous species. In the winter months, the river usually holds a number of Teal, with regular visiting Goosander and Little Egret. Kingfisher are regularly seen along the river and we may see a few late dragonflies.

Unfortunately, there are no toilet facilities in the area but it is possible that hot drinks may be available at the Crazy Mare café.

As the Kirkway end is often busy with school traffic, please meet for 10:30am at the Mainway East entrance, (what 3 words address ///bared.festivity.flute, Grid Reference SD 88361 04707, Post Code M24 1RQ) where there is usually plenty of on the street parking along Mainway East.

If you need a lift from Manchester Rd then please contact [rfnspublicity@gmail.com](mailto:rfnspublicity@gmail.com) or text Jan on 07982417672 a few days before the event.

## **Cons & Ed : Piethorne Grassland Fungi Survey : Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Oct : 10.00am**

The grassland fungi survey with Steve Hindle has been rescheduled for Saturday 29th October.

You may have seen Steve in your Autumn 2022 edition of the National Trust Magazine. He gave us an insightful talk into the Calderdale Grassland fungi project at the Sept indoor meeting. We are lucky locally to have pockets of acidic grassland that have been continuously grazed for several 100s, probably 1000s of years. The complex network of fungi that has developed in that undisturbed low nutrient soil can hold carbon and water as effectively as woodland and, in the autumn, we get a glimpse of some of these fungi as in the correct conditions their beautiful and varied fruiting bodies emerge amongst the grasses.

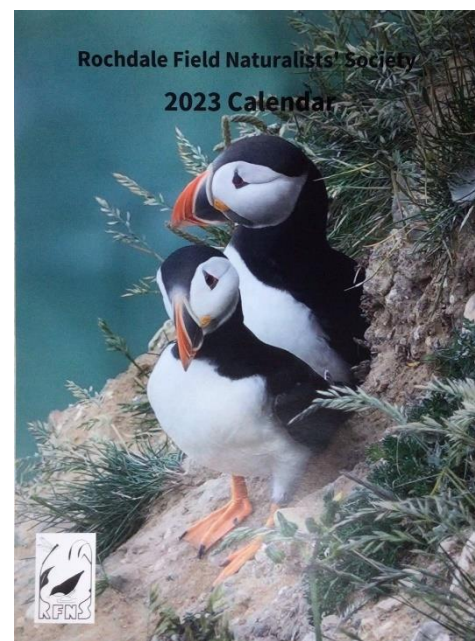
Meet at 10am at the Carpark adjacent to Ogden Reservoir, Ogden Lane, Rochdale OL16 3TQ. What 3 words: exploring, shelter, notebook. Nearest tram-stop is Newhey and bus stop is Peppermint Bridge.

We will walk 1/2 hour along a metalled road and well-made bridle paths to the main meadow and after that look at some of the surrounding fields which are less accessible and likely to be less abundant with grassland fungi. Come for the morning or for the day. It is up to you. Bring study footwear and refreshments. Please note toilets in the carpark are not always open.

## **2023 Calendars - Pam Crofts**

The 2023 calendars have arrived and as you can see the front cover features a wonderful photograph of Puffins which was taken by Paul Whiting on our coach trip to Bempton Cliffs earlier this year. I would like to thank everyone who sent in photos for the calendar - I think I managed to select at least one from everyone who did!

It was decided that we would again give everyone renewing their membership a FREE calendar. As before we will assume that people will only want one per household BUT if you would like one per member let me know and your wish will be granted. We are aiming to cut postage costs and as far as possible distribute calendars at RFNS events or deliver by hand.



There will be some calendars available for sale (£5) on a first come first served basis closer to Christmas.

Contact Pam Crofts [rfnspublicity@gmail.com](mailto:rfnspublicity@gmail.com) and put 2023 Calendar in the subject if you would like an additional calendar or let Joan know when you renew your membership.

### **RFNS SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022/2023 : Ruth Hardcastle RFNS Treasurer**

RFNS's new financial year starts on 1st September and members renew their RFNS memberships during September and October.

Please note that:

- 1) Subscriptions will remain at £10 per person
- 2) On paying your subscription you will be sent a complimentary RFNS calendar for 2023 as a way of thanking you for your continuing loyalty.
- 3) New members who joined during the latter part of 2021/22 do not need to renew their memberships until September 2023.

### **Methods Of Paying Your Subscription**

**Standing Order** - You may wish to take this opportunity to set up a Standing Order. This is our preferred way of payment of subscriptions as it is so much easier to administer. If you choose this method then please complete the mandate form which is attached to this newsletter and e-mail it to: [rfnstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rfnstreasurer@gmail.com) or post to: The Treasurer, RFNS, 20 Derwent Ave, Milnrow Rochdale, OL16 3UD.

**Bank Transfer** - Sort Code 05-07-67, Account Number 60931963. Please use your name as a reference.

**Cheque** - Make payable to "Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society". Please give me your cheque at any RFNS event or send it to the Treasurer's address as above.

**Cash** - Pay me at any RFNS event.

### **RFNS WhatsApp Group : Ian Short**

As mentioned a couple of months ago, we are trying hard to make it as easy as possible for members to keep abreast of Society activities.

Because different people have different preferences, we have added another tool to our communications toolbox: a secure Society WhatsApp group, for members only.

The group will only be used for Field Nats business - things like reminders of events, changes of plan, urgent news, etc - not general chit chat or photos (that's what the Facebook page and website are for). The group has already been useful even in embryonic form to let us know there were no fungi at Piethorne, which saved at least one wasted journey!

If you use WhatsApp, just click on the link in Laura's covering email to join the group.

We've decided that's both a much easier way to set up the group, and it keeps members in control.

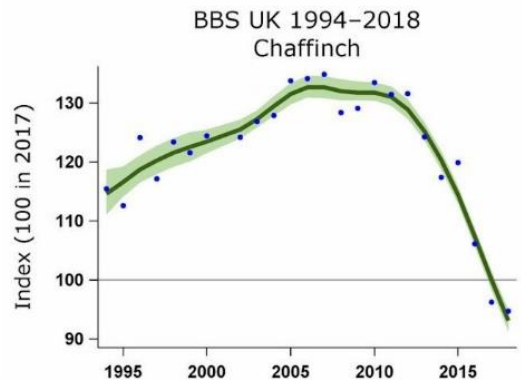
We obviously want as many people to join the group as possible, so please do join us, but that is your choice. You can, of course, leave the group at any time.

If you would like to join the group, but struggle with the link, please contact a member of the steering group and we'll try to help you.



### Clean your feeders for healthy finches : Karen Cowley

Have you noticed fewer Chaffinches recently? BTO data show that the UK Chaffinch population has declined by 29% between 2008 and 2018. This worrying trend has many similarities to the awful decline in the UK Greenfinch population. We have been working with long-term collaborators ZSL to understand why these changes are happening and what can be done about them. In a new study just published we show that the same parasitic disease is likely responsible for the severe declines seen in both Greenfinch and Chaffinch populations. Garden feeding may have played an important role in the decline of both species so good hygiene at garden feeding stations could help reduce this impact.



### A Festive Invitation from Lucy Doherty : Thurs 1st Dec : Bacup : 10.00am

Members are invited to my house for a short walk on the Moors North West of Bacup say about two hours. (West of A 671 towards Burnley)

Then lunch time back to my bungalow for Seasonal refreshments.

No need to bring packed lunch.

At 300m elevation, there is risk of snow and ice up here, when Bacup itself is clear.

Directions: Bacup lies at crossroads of A671 and A681. From Rochdale A671 and continue to Bacup central roundabout 8.8 miles

If you would like a lift please contact [fnspublicity@gmail.com](mailto:fnspublicity@gmail.com) several days before and we will try to arrange it.

Please contact Lucy Doherty - Tel: 01706 872 016 Mob: 07957 966 732 for directions.

### Some interesting info from Charlie Farrell

**Oct 8<sup>th</sup>** is the ebird Big Day, when countries and areas can compete to record the greatest number of species in a 24-hour period.

<https://ebird.org/atlasny/news/october-big-day-2022>

The North Western Birdwatching Fair takes place AT Martin Mere over the weekend of the **15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Oct**. Of course, the 15<sup>th</sup> Oct clashes with the coach trip to Grassington, but members could still get along on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/martin-mere/north-west-bird-watching-festival>

The BTO Youth In Nature Summit takes place on **Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Oct** in Manchester

<https://bto.org/community/events/youth-events/bto-youth-nature-summit>

The National Biodiversity Network conference for 2002 will take place on **Nov 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Natural History Museum in London

<https://nbn.org.uk/news-events-publications/nbn-conference-2/nbn-conference-2022/>

The Fungi Guy (Ali Mckernan) who has a popular Instagram account focusing on fungi, is hosting some walks on fungi identification around the Greater Manchester area, which can be booked via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/ali-mckernan-aka-the-fungi-guy-27375986809>

The Manchester Bird Recorder, Ian Mckerchar is once again offering his Bird News service for the 12 months starting October for a bargain £10. Details can be found on the thread on the Manchester Birding Forum

<https://manchesterbirding.activeboard.com/t44822389/manchester-birding-bird-news-text-alert-offer/> or by contacting Ian directly at [ianmckerchar1@gmail.com](mailto:ianmckerchar1@gmail.com). I

personally have found this a very useful service over the last couple of years and might interest other birders who do not read the forum regularly

(Editor – Thanks Charlie. That's really useful)

**November Newsletter** If you have something you would like included in future newsletters, please send it to [rfsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rfsnewsletter@gmail.com). ***Please submit items for the November Newsletter by Monday 24th October.***

**Newsletter Title Colour Coding :**

**Green = Society Information   Red = Member Contribution**