



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

May 2023 Newsletter

May Dates

Sun 7th May : Cons & Ed Event : Dawn Chorus : Watergrove : 5.00am

Sat 13th May : Coach Trip : Austwick, N. Yorks : 9.00am ***Booking needed. Pay AND email rfnspublicity@gmail.com to confirm your booking ***

Wed 17th May : Car trip : Sunart Fields Rewilding Project : ***Booking needed***

Thurs 25th May : Local Walk : Red Lumb, Rochdale : 10.30am

Sat 27th May : Car Trip : Woolston Eyes SSSI, Warrington : 11.00am

Advanced warning : Sat June 10th Coach trip : Gronant NR, North Wales ***Booking needed***

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

www.rochdalefieldnaturalists.org.uk

www.facebook.com/groups/965410946937744/

Cons & Ed Event : Sun 7th May 5.00am : Dawn Chorus : Watergrove Reservoir.



International Dawn Chorus Day is an annual event celebrating nature's symphony, held on the first Sunday of May. All around the world, people rise with the lark to experience this natural wonder for themselves. Why not join with members of Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society to celebrate the day. Bring your ears as well as your bins!

Meet at 5.00 am at Watergrove Car Park, Ramsden Rd, Wardle OL12 9NJ. We will

walk to a good spot to take in the birdsong in the company of Steve Atkins on his home birding patch.

Following this we will walk around the reservoir to see what else we can see and hear. You should be home for your breakfast by 9.00 am

Hope to see fellow insomniacs and late-night Coronation revellers amongst you for the cacophony of birdsong. You can have a lie in on Bank Holiday Monday!

Anyone with a smartphone could try downloading the Merlin App which is great for recording and identifying birdsong. <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

For more info about this international event, visit

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/events-dates-and-inspiration/events/dawn-chorus/>

Leader : Paul Whiting



Coach Trip : Sat 13th May 9.00am : Austwick : Walk to Oxenber and Wharfe Woods, in the Yorkshire Dales

This is a 4 ½ mile walk from Austwick, near Settle, to the historic wood pastures of the Oxenber-Wharfe SSSI which has a rich diversity of plants adapted to the underlying limestone. The Ash and Hazel woodland is protected from grazing for most of the year so we hope we will be at the right time to see a wealth of spring flowers. Green Woodpeckers, Redstarts and Wheatears all nest in the area.



The route follows well marked field paths and green lanes. There is a moderately steep section up to the woods – but you will be rewarded with fine views of Ingleborough and Moughton. Two stiles cannot be avoided but they are sturdy and well maintained. The route returns via a popular cafe at a farm in Feizor and there is a pub in Austwick which also serves teas.

Non walkers may want to stay in Settle for the day as it has more facilities than Austwick – just let Rick and Karen know when you board the coach.

For further details contact Rick or Karen Cowley Tel. 01706 853791

The trip is open to members, as well as their friends and family. The coach will leave Manchester Road Cul-de-Sac, Rochdale OL11 4HY at 9am prompt and will set off on its return journey at 5 pm. The cost is still only £20. Contact

rfnspublicity@gmail.com with any enquiries.

We will need at least 30 members to sign up for this to make it viable. If you are intending to join this trip **please book before Tues 2nd May**. Please pay your £20 beforehand by bank transfer: Sort Code 05-07-67, Account Number 60931963 and use your name as a reference. Some people have just been sending in their payment but our bank systems are not high tech, so **please email** rfnspublicity@gmail.com **to confirm your booking**. Cheques should be made payable to “Rochdale Field Naturalists’ Society”.

Leaders : Karen & Rick Cowley

Why Do I Need to Book on the Coach Trips Early?

With the cost of living increases a typical coach trip now costs between £550 and £600. That’s quite a chunk of money and to break even we need between 27 and 30 people on a trip. The society could withstand a small loss of say £100 but not indefinitely. So before confirming a trip I need to know that there are at least 23 booked on it, and to be fair to the coach company I need to know at least 10 days in advance.

The emphasis here is ‘I’. The booking instructions are fairly simple 1. you email rfnspublicity@gmail.com to say you want to book, and 2. you pay your £20; but too many are simply paying the money so I have no idea you have booked on the trip! (Cresswell was almost cancelled as I only knew of 10 booked on it). Once the trip has the go ahead there are usually spaces (they’re usually 45 seaters) for those who were unable to book earlier.

So, to avoid stress and inconvenience please follow the booking instructions and email rfnspublicity@gmail.com with your booking. If you can't email then a quick phone call to my mobile is OK. Thanks
Jan

Car Trip : Wed 17th May : Sunart Fields Rewilding Project : Linda Turner

Rachel Evatt gave a talk via Zoom in March and she has invited us to visit her Rewilding Project in Derbyshire at Sunart Fields. If you missed the talk, it is available on our website.

Rachel needs to know how many cars and people are likely to be coming so please email me at rfnspublicity@gmail.com if you haven't already signed up on the list at the evening meeting or on the coach trip. Please let me know by **Mon 15th May at the latest** so I can inform Rachel. Please do not just turn up without letting me know.

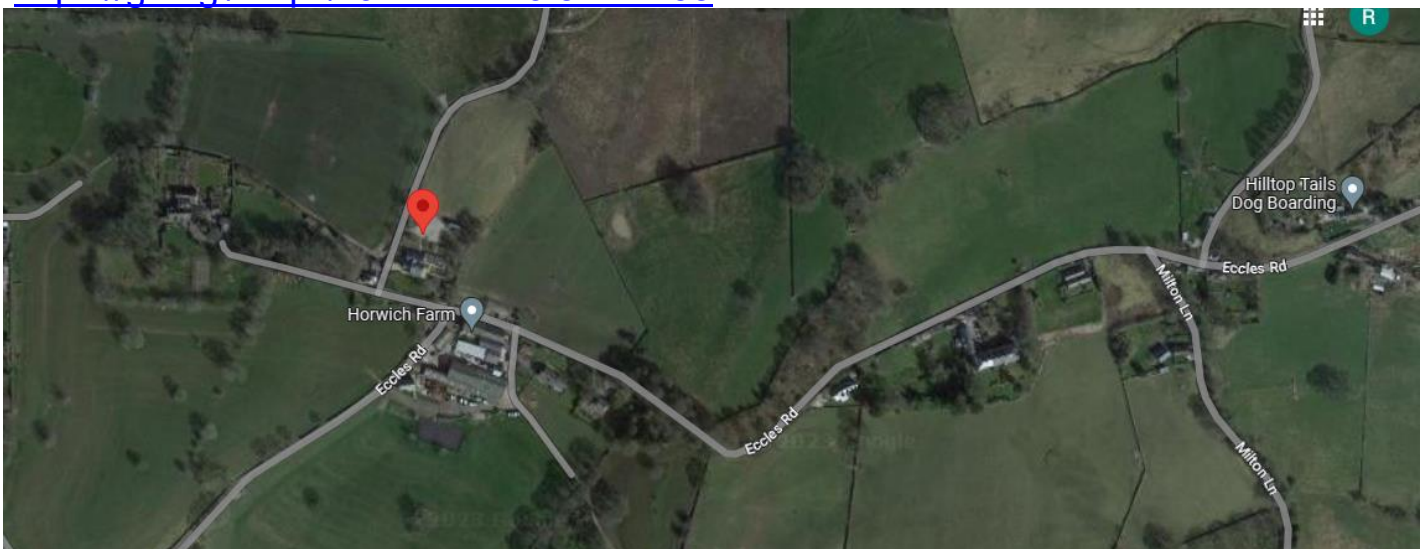
I intend for us to meet at Old Manchester Road to car share so we can limit the number of cars. We need to leave at 9.00am prompt to get there for 10.00am. We will have a walk around the project and weather permitting you can eat your packed lunch in the field.

These are the directions she has sent.

Address: Sunart, Eccles Road, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, SK23 7EW.

The postcode can send people 200m up the road (rural postcodes!) so I am also sharing the Google Map pin and ask that when you reach Eccles Road, you navigate to this:

<https://goo.gl/maps/sJm2WrVP3f8BFuA58>



The turning on to our track is opposite Horwich farm on a sharp bend in the road. Follow the track around to the right, past the house (and drive) and pull into the farm gate - which is the 2nd gate on the right. There is parking in the yard for up to 10 cars. Please can there be absolutely no parking on the track or on Eccles Road as it is narrow and would block access for our neighbours.

We also intend to do some recording to give to Rachel to help with monitoring the biodiversity changes at the project so bring binoculars and guides etc.

Local Walk : Thursday 25 May 10.30am : A leisurely walk amongst flowery fields near Red Lumb, Rochdale



Please meet at 10.30am at the former Norden Bus Terminal beside Norden Jubilee Park, Edenfield Rd, OL11 5TT. (Grid Reference SD 858 146)

If the parking area is full there is always space on the roadside beside the park (Hutchinson Road.)

This will be a walk of about 4 miles along tracks, paths and bridleways and occasional minor roads through ancient woodland and farmland. There may be cattle/horses in some fields and there are some stiles. There are no facilities along the route but there are in Norden village. The outward route is via Doctor Dam and Holt Wood and then heads Northwest through farmland to Red Lumb. We hope there will be an abundance of Flowers and Butterflies at this time of year and there was also a good bird list when Sonia and Gavin led this walk in April 2021. The return route can be varied depending on time available but it will pass through Wolstenholme Fold back to the car park.

Leaders : Jenny & Ian Short

Car Trip : Woolston Eyes SSSI Warrington : Sat 27th May 11.00am

It was a shame we had to cancel our visit in March due to bad weather, but we have rescheduled and our chances of seeing Black-necked Grebes are now much higher.

Please see March's Newsletter for full details, but briefly we will meet at the yellow barrier gate on Thelwell Lane at 11.00am There may be a charge so bring some cash. **Please bring your permit with you if you are a member.**

If you would like a lift, please contact rfnspublicity@gmail.com several days before and we will try to arrange it.

Sat. nav. users please use the postcode WA4 1NN which takes you to the Alcon plant on Thelwall Lane then past Beers. The yellow entrance barrier to the Reserve track at the end of that rough road.

Personally, I use the M60 to Exit 11 then follow the A57 (Liverpool Rd, then Cadishead Way then Manchester Rd) Turn left onto the A50 Kingsway (Tesco Express on the left). Thelwall Lane on your left-hand side, by traffic lights, opposite to Lidl.

Full information about the reserve can be found here -

<https://www.woolstoneyes.com/>

Leader : Laura Ettrick



And finally a fascinating poem inspired by our Earthworm workshop composed by our very own poet. Thank you so much Lucy

Just a Worm - an Annelid
by Mrs Lorna-Lucy Entwisle-Doherty

1. Humph indeed! Just think once more!
I'm Epigeic worm I'm sure
Which lives above the thatch.
Eisenia veneta's my Sunday name or
"Compost Worm" from whence I came -
Took 20 weeks to hatch.
I'm red-o-typy, stripy, feisty.
Your garden waste I turn unsheisty
To dress your rhubarb patch.

3. Anecic worms comprise the biggest -
"Lob Worm" - Lumbricus terrestris.
I'm of a large persuasion.
A hundred cee-ems my burrow descends.
Cocooned in the walls my egg transcends,
Passing its gestation.
When earth's too dry I dehydrate.
In a ball I knot and hibernate
Needing precipitation.

2. An endogenic worm am I
To 25 cee-ems I lie
The "Grey Worm" most prolific.
Aporrectodea, then
caliginosa next my name,
Because I am so slick.
My head end has three different hues.
My rear is pale and gre-y-blue.
I'm not so very quick.

4. We compost, till and aerate,
We drain, we turn - don't underrate
Our work we never attain.
We sacrifice to predators
Ourselves to voracious carnivores...
We're bottom of the chain.
So, when you break the soil asunder
Our lightless world which lies thereunder
This world is destroyed, so just remember
From Worms how much you gain.

HUMPH!!

June Newsletter

If you have something you would like included in the June newsletter, please send it to rfnsnewsletter@gmail.com by Wednesday 24th May.

Newsletter Title Colour Coding :

Green = Society Information

Red = Member Contribution

Social Media Platforms

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