



September 2023 Newsletter

September Dates

Thurs 14th Sept : Indoor Meeting : Preventing Raptor Persecution : 7.30pm : Cutgate

Sat 16th Sept : Coach Trip : The Great Orme, Llandudno : 9.00am ***Booking needed***

Thurs 28th Sept : Local Walk : Old Birtle : 10.30am

Advanced warning : Sat 14th Oct : Coach Trip to Attenborough Nature Reserve, Nottingham
More details in next month's newsletter.

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/

Indoor Meeting : Thurs 14th Sept 7-30pm : Cutgate Baptist Church : Linda Turner : Co-chair

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our new season of indoor meetings at Cutgate Baptist Church, Edenfield Road, Rochdale, OL11 5AQ.



We are very pleased to welcome as our first speaker, Howard Jones who works for RSPB as an Investigations officer. He will be describing his role with RSPB, particularly how he is working to prevent raptor persecution. Some of you may have seen him on Springwatch earlier this year talking about Hen Harriers in Cumbria. I am sure this talk will be of interest to those of you who are keen birdwatchers and those who are interested in how wildlife crime is detected and prevented.

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

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.

We are always needing members to help with setting up the room and tidying up afterwards, so if you can spare a few minutes just come a bit early or stay behind after. On this occasion we also need someone to help serve refreshments. If you would like to help, please email lturner4@virginmedia.com

Coach Trip : Sat 16th Sept 9.00am : The Great Orme, Llandudno : Vinny Holt & Jan Kidd

The September coach trip will be to the large limestone headland that is the Great Orme, overlooking the little seaside town of Llandudno in North Wales.

The natural history around the Orme is very special – it has an impressive number of protective designations including Special Area of Conservation, Heritage Coast, Country Park and Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is famous for its Kashmiri goats – direct descendants of a pair presented to Queen Victoria by the Shah of Persia.

The Orme is rich in flora and fauna - too many to mention, suffice to say that on the recce in mid-August we saw choughs, stone chats, plus many species of butterflies and wild flowers that had us scratching our heads. Whilst not all of these will still be around in the middle of September, we





did see many early parasol mushrooms just nudging up out of the soil – so expect fungi as well.

On the day there will be a couple of walk options. Weather permitting, the main walk will be to the old abandoned Gun Battery overlooking the sea and surrounded by gorse, heather, bracken and all manner of flora. This walk starts off with a short upward climb and involves a few steps but is relatively level. It will be about 4 miles long, with an option

to add another mile at the end should you wish to take a return detour to the lovely Haulfre Tea Rooms that overlook the town.

The second option, which will be self-lead, would be to ascend the Orme by the tram and then wander around the reserve on the summit. The tram costs £11 return and runs every 20 minutes. The tram terminal is a short walk from the coach drop off.

And lastly if you just want a very easy walk, you can stroll the opposite way to the Great Orme, along the water edge of Conway Bay to a headland. Although we didn't reccy this walk, we did see lots of interesting plants at the edge of the beach and a café halfway along.

More information on these walk options will be provided on the day.

The trip is open to members as well as friends and family. The coach will leave Manchester Road cul-de-sac, Rochdale OL11 4HY at 9-00 a.m. prompt and will set off on its return journey at 5 p.m. The cost is still £20. Contact rfnspublicity@gmail.com with any queries. Please pay your £20 beforehand by bank transfer: Sort code 05-07-67 Account number 60931963 and use your name as reference. **Then email rfnspublicity@gmail.com to book your place on the coach by 8th Sept.** **Please note that your place is not reserved until you receive a reply to that email.** Cheques should be made payable to "Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society".



RFNS SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2023/2024 : 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 2024. This is a special 150 years commemorative edition being gifted as a way of thanking you for your continuing loyalty.
- 3) New members who joined during the latter part of 2022/23 do not need to renew their memberships until September 2024.

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 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.

Local Walk : Thurs 28th Sept 10.30am : Old Birtle, Heywood. Leaders : Pam & Roger Crofts

Please meet at 10.30 am OUTSIDE the Pack Horse Pub, Elbut Lane, Birtle Rd, Rochdale, Bury BL9 7TU (SD 835 125)

PLEASE NOTE – THE PUB IS CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT SO IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO USE THE CAR PARK – but you may be able to find odd spaces higher up Birtle Road where it widens out or lower down on quiet residential roads nearer Jericho Methodist Church e.g. Weythorne Lane.

IF POSSIBLE PLEASE SHARE VEHICLES

To get to Elbut Lane from Rochdale by Car: drive towards Bury on B6222 the Bury and Rochdale Old Road. After the Bus Turning area (no longer used by buses) turn Right on Elbut Lane (The Jericho Methodist Church is at the corner.) Turn right up Elbut Rd for half a mile, passing the Birtle Riding Stables and the Pavilion Bistro on your left until you reach the Packhorse Pub on your Rt

To get to Elbut Lane from Rochdale by Bus - get Bury bus from Rochdale : 467 or 468 to alight at Jericho and walk up to the Pub (c 10minutes)

The walk is about 4 miles long – no steep inclines but there a few **good** stiles. We will be using old paths and tracks.

It will go past historic buildings in this old part of Heywood and include a variety of habitats: open water, flower meadows, woods, and an old quarry and churchyard. We hope to see late summer flowers, including a small patch of wild Autumn Crocus if we are lucky with our timing. In the past we have had good sightings of butterflies and other insects, and birds of farmland and hedgerows. Fungi are early this year so with all the recent rains that's a possibility too. There are some extensive views from parts of this circular route which is in a delightful part of the Borough.



Outdoor Team : Jan Kidd

Thanks to everyone who offered to lead the coach trips next year. We've had a great response and it is very much appreciated. I will send out the details I have to you all very soon.

However, we still need 6 more people.

We need a second leader to help with each of these 4 trips -

April, Brimham Rocks - Yorkshire,

May, Cressbrookdale - Derbyshire,

June, Sherwood Forest - Nottinghamshire and

November, Martin Mere - Lancashire.

If you feel a bit nervous about leading, this would be a good introduction as you could learn from someone more experienced.

We have also had no one offering to lead the South Lakes trip in July. Unfortunately, unless we have an offer we will not have a trip in July. If you would lead on that month but to an alternative site please get in touch.

If you can help in with any of these please email rfnspublicity@gmail.com

Thanks

Jan

The Moth Poem Lucy Entwisle

1. Oh little moth who flits about the air When darkness comes away from direct glare You know not what your stance. Except your home and what you feed upon, Seek a mate - lay eggs from such a union. Content in ignorance.	3. Linnaeus used a language to describe Each living organism the whole world-wide Using just two names. The genus first, then comes the one that's "given". Universal understanding was his mission. His legacy remains.
2. We set a cunning trap to catch your flight At dusk attracted by the dimmering light And down you fall to sleep. Cool morn, we gently tease you out to view Your size, your markings, shape and what your hue. A document we keep.	4. Return our little moth from whence you came. Live your life to the full - without a name. Rejoice! Rejoice! From internet and books seek information. Identification comes with satisfaction We also can rejoice....

NOTES

Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) Swedish botanist, zoologist, taxonomist, physician

Linnaeus' hierarchical categorization system has 8 levels, known as taxa.

Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species

Innovated binomial nomenclature, two-word name in Latin:

Genus (always capitalised) and species (always lower case) - written in italics.

Moths and Butterflies - Order Lepidoptera – 165,000 species

Only about 18,000 are butterflies

Smallest Moth *Stigmella maya*

wingspan 2.5mm

Largest Moth *Coscinocera hercules*

wingspan 27-36cm

Lorna-Lucy Entwisle Doherty

Bacup 23rd August 2023

October Newsletter

If you have something you would like included in the October newsletter, please send it to rfnsnewsletter@gmail.com by Sunday 24th Sept.

Newsletter Title Colour Coding :

Green = Society Information

Red = Member Contribution

