



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

December 2023 Newsletter

December Dates

Thurs 14th Dec : Indoor Meeting : AGM & Members Social : 7.30pm : Cutgate
N.B. There will be no coach trip or local walk in December.

ADVANCED NOTICE :

Sat 13th Jan 2024 : Coach Trip : Anglers Country Park ; Yorkshire *BOOKING NEED*

Sat 10th Feb 2024 : Coach Trip : Caerlaverock WWT, S.W. Scotland

More details below. 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 Dec : 7-30pm : Linda Turner : Co-chair



We are looking forward to welcoming you to our next indoor meeting at Cutgate Baptist Church Edenfield Road, Rochdale, OL11 5AQ.

This month's meeting will have a short AGM followed by seasonal refreshments then a talk by Vinnie Holt about his travels this year in South Africa and its wildlife.

There is no entry charge for this meeting. Please come in your Christmas jumpers and help make it an enjoyable social event.

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.

2024 Calendars - Pam Crofts

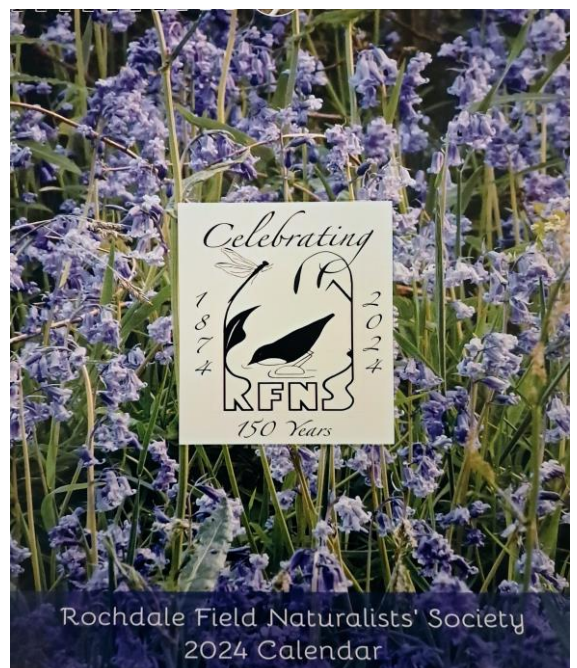
The 2024 calendars featuring Donald Taylor's wonderful hand drawn maps are now available to buy at a bargain price of £5. They make great gifts.

Don't worry if you have renewed your membership but not yet received your FREE calendar it will be finding its way to you shortly. We are aiming to cut postage costs and as far as possible distribute calendars at RFNS events or deliver by hand so this takes a little longer. Of course, if you haven't renewed your membership yet ... now is the time to do so!

Calendars will be available to buy at the AGM in December and other RFNS events as long as stock lasts!

Alternatively contact Pam

Crofts rfnspublicity@gmail.com and put 2024 Calendar in the subject if you would like to order one - or more.



Coach Trip : Sat 13th Jan 2024 : Anglers Country Park ; Yorkshire :

Anglers Country Park, located 4 miles south-east of Wakefield, was once known as one of the deepest open cast coal mines in the country reaching a depth of 250 feet. Since the opening of the park in 1986, it has become one of the most important inland bird sites in Yorkshire, the lake is a haven for migratory birds, particularly wintering wildfowl and it has been designated a Local Nature Reserve by Wakefield Council. The park has been awarded Green Flag status – recognising it as one of the best parks in the country. A central lake is surrounded by grassland, woodland and a wetland area known as the 'Pol' giving you an array of places to explore.

Winterset reservoir has been popular with fishermen for well over a century. When the local public house was built in the 1850s it was named "Anglers Retreat". The opencast workings adopted the "Anglers" name in the 1970s and this stuck when the Country Park was created.

The two-mile lakeside path around the lake is both wheelchair and pushchair friendly and electric mobility scooters are available free of charge for use within the park. Contact 01924860280 or anglerscp@wakefield.gov.uk if you want to book one.

The newly refurbished Visitor Centre at Anglers Country Park is open 10am – 4pm daily and the Woodland Café offers the opportunity for you can enjoy a well-deserved coffee and cake at the end of the day. There is also a gift shop with "Room on the Broom" merchandise! More details in the January Newsletter.



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 **9.00am** prompt and will set off on its return journey at 4.00pm. 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 5th Jan.** **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".

Leaders :Laura Ettrick & Paul Whiting

January Newsletter

If you have something you would like included in the January newsletter, please send it to rfnsnewsletter@gmail.com by Wednesday 27th Dec.

Newsletter Title Colour Coding :

Green = Society Information Red = Member Contribution

Coach Trip : 10th Feb 2024. Caerlaverock WWT, S.W. Scotland

We are really looking forward to our February coach trip to the Wildlife and Wetland Trust centre at Caerlaverock. When the society last went - seven years ago! - it was the most popular trip of the year and lots of members have already indicated that they are looking forward to this visit.



Caerlaverock WWT in Dumfries and Galloway is the most northerly WWT reserve and is often said to have been Sir Peter Scott's favourite. It occupies a spectacular area of wild habitat on the north Solway Coast. From October to April it is alive with flocks of tens of thousands of Barnacle Geese, hundreds of Whooper Swans and other wintering birds. The entire Svalbard population of Barnacle Geese winter on the Solway and there is the opportunity to see Whooper Swans closer than anywhere else in Britain as there are two daily wild swan feeds.

A couple of important pieces of information about this coach trip, both of which are directly linked to the fact that it's further than we usually travel:

- 1) It will be an **8.00 am start** to allow us more time to admire the wildlife!
- 2) The cost of the coach is such that we will need to charge **£30 per person** instead of our usual £20. We will also need people to book places well in advance.

Entry to the reserve is free for WWT members but there is an admission charge for non-members of £6.60 which is the group discount rate.

RFNS SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2023/2024 : Ruth Hardcastle : RFNS Treasurer

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, **PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

Subscriptions remain at £10 per person and you will be sent a special complimentary 150 years commemorative RFNS calendar for 2024. (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 - 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 in your cheque at any RFNS event or send it to the Treasurer's address as above.

Cash - Pay at any RFNS event.

Please note the members form only needs to be filled in and returned to the Secretary if you are a new member or if your details have changed and you need to communicate this to the secretary so that the Society's records can be updated.

RFNS Garden Observers : Karen Cowley

Do you enjoy watching birds in your garden?

Would you like to join the RFNS Observers' Garden Recording Scheme?

This is open to any paid-up member of the Society - wherever you live in Greater Manchester.

If you would like to start recording wildlife then do please start with your own garden or local patch.

Karen sends out forms to our Garden Observers every month either by post or by email.

The results help the Society to monitor what is around in our area and is useful for national researchers to monitor changes over time.

Thanks go to our loyal band of members who regularly complete monthly records of wildlife seen in their gardens and occasionally on walks around the Borough. In winter the emphasis is definitely on the birds that visit our bird tables.

All local records are forwarded to the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit to be available to researchers and conservationists, so our members don't need to send in individual records.

RFNS has the largest band of local naturalists sending in records to GM and we have secured several FIRSTS over the years!

Please contact Karen for more information: k.cowley@whitworth46.myzen.co.uk or Telephone: 01706 853791.



Christmas poem Lucy Entwisle

We mortals love the fayre and fun each year when Christmas comes.
Bubbly fizzing, family, friends all crowded in our homes.
The tree a twinkling with fairy lights and gifts stacked underneath –
The door with jolly wreath.

We wildlife spend our Christmas after yours has gone and past.
When there's a glut of leftovers cast out for our repast.
There's sprouts galore and tatties all covered in grease,
"The Roasts" hung up in trees.

Whatever be ones spiritual belief, this time's for love and giving.
The trees the seas the organisms in harmony are living.
Let's celebrate this Happy Time and embrace the worth –
All life upon This Earth.

Festive Fun and Feast : Laura Ettrick

On behalf of the Field Nats, I would like to thank Lucy for her kind invitation to enjoy a walk around her local part of Bacup followed by a fantastic lunch at her house. Here are some of the comments made by members who attended from our Facebook and WhatsApp pages –

"What a beautiful walk up at Lucy's. We had lovely lunch. And great company to. Thank you Lucy"

"Thanks for the invite Lucy. Great to meet up again and great hospitality from Lucy." *"Lovely day, thanks."* *"Thank you, Lucy. It was a lovely walk and delicious lunch. Great to see everyone. Xx."* *"Yes, I agree, it was a wonderful day & I enjoyed your amazing lunch & company very much. Thank you, Lucy so much 🍌 xx"*

"Likewise! xxx" *"We had an absolutely lovely day, Lucy. Many thanks for the super lunch. It was delicious. Your hospitality is first class."* *"I had a great day Lucy, thank you."*

I can only echo those comments – and the view from your living room window is stunning!

