



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

May 2024 Newsletter

May Dates

No Indoor Meetings until Thurs 12th Sept

Sun 5th May : Cons & Ed Event : Dawn Chorus Walk : Watergrove : 5.00am

Sun 12th May ****COACH TRIP CANCELLED**** (Possible car trip to Clitheroe instead)

Thurs 23rd May : Local Walk : Firgrove Area : 10.30am

Thurs 30th May : Cons & Ed Event : Tulip Grove Survey : 10.30am ***BOOKING NEED***

ADVANCED NOTICE :

Sat 15th June : Coach Trip : Sherwood Forest : 9.00am ***BOOKING NEED***

(Thurs 27th June : Local Recording Walk in the Hopwood area?)

Sun 30th June : Manchester Festival of Nature : 1 – 4pm

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/

In the light of a member's recent experience, can I recommend you all to refer to the National Cyber Security Centre if you suspect that you, or any of your family and friends have been scammed.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/report-scam-text-message>

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to

report@phishing.gov.uk

Conservation and Education Event: Sunday 5th May 5-00am : Paul Whiting



This event celebrates International Dawn Chorus Day. Whether it's Skylarks, Blackcaps, Nightingales or Robins, the UK's birdsong spectacular reaches its crescendo in early May just in time for International Dawn Chorus Day. This is held on the first Sunday in May each year, which falls on 5 May in 2024.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/dawn-chorus-day>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/the-dawn-chorus-all-you-need-to-know-about-natures-big-show>

Meet at Watergrove Reservoir car park for a 5.00am start and we should be back to the start for 8.00am in time to get home for Breakfast. Smart phone users may want to download Merlin which we will be able to use and demonstrate during the walk. So, if you can be up with the Lark or can't sleep we will see you as the sun rises and the birds are at their most active.

Cressbrookdale Coach Trip : 12th May : Jan Kidd

Regrettably the coach trip has been **CANCELLED**. After going to reccie earlier in the week the path was found to be extremely muddy and slippery as it is on limestone. As well as being slightly dangerous this would mean that it would take far too long to complete the route. **Please do not book.** However, we may be offering an alternative car trip to the Clitheroe area. This will be reccied this week. Please keep a look out on Facebook or WhatsApp to find out if it will go ahead and for further details. Thanks.

A Plea from Karen and Sheila

We are begging for somebody(y/ies) to lead our proposed **Local Recording Walk in the Hopwood area on June 27th**.

This is an area we often visit in autumn and winter but rarely in summertime.

There are various routes we could suggest for you.

You don't have to be an expert on the area or an expert naturalist.

We need someone to take on the responsibility of walking the paths a few weeks before to confirm they are passable & pinpoint some likely spots where lunch could be taken by the group.

Sheila and I do all the recording and we hope we have enough experts on the day to manage the Identification of plants, birds and insects.

We need your help, please!

Local Walk : Thurs 23rd May : 10.30am : Firgrove Area : Pete Knowles and Celia Miller

The walk will start from Halliwell Street with a walk following the River Beal to the ex-tip area which borders Firgrove Playing Field. We will be exploring a field bordering the river then spend some time on the flat area outside the boundary of the playing fields which is usually good for wild flowers, bees, butterflies and other insects. There will then be a chance to walk around the raised ex-tip area which again should have plenty of interest. On our recce in March it looked to be promising for nesting birds, for example chiffchaff, song thrush and there was a buzzard overhead. The walk won't be too long (c. 2 to 3 miles) with no stiles and relatively easy



though it can be muddy and uneven in places, particularly by the River Beal. Unless we have a dry spell, wellies may be advisable. It would be a good opportunity to follow up on the apps workshop in the field so we'd suggest getting Merlin and iNaturalist on your phone if you're interested. We will be doing a further recce nearer in May and will put more information on the Field Nats Facebook page.

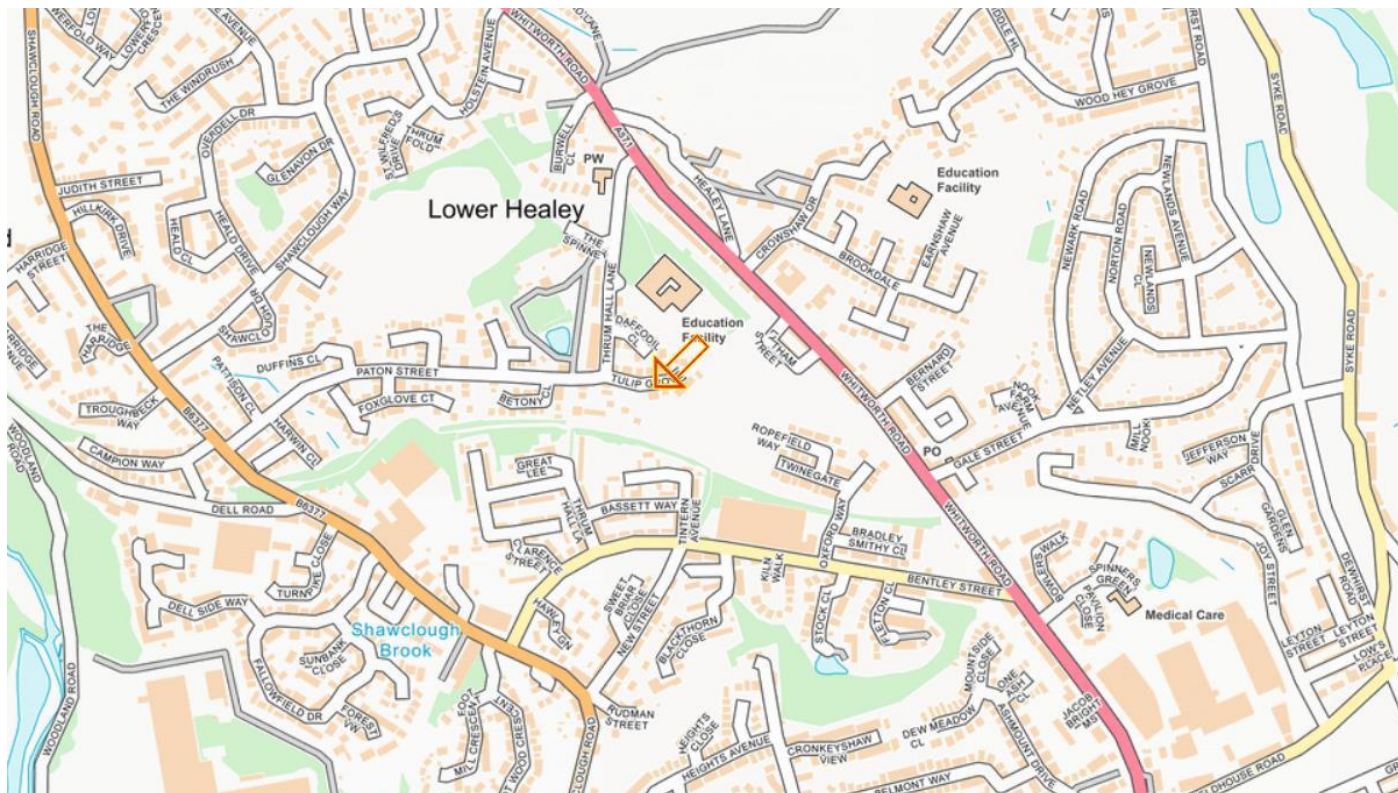
We will meet on Halliwell Street, by Thistleyfields Sheltered Housing/Thistleyfields Bowling Club (OL16 3PX, SD 922131). Coming from Rochdale towards Milnrow on the A640, go straight across the lights at the Range, over the canal and carry on until you see the Crown and Shuttle, then take the next left into Uncouth Road, and first right on to Halliwell Street and drive down Halliwell Street until you get to Thistleyfields. Coming from Milnrow/Newhey, go through the lights at the junction of Elizabethan Way/Bridge St/Rochdale Road and go straight along Rochdale Road, turn right onto Uncouth Road (opposite Princess Road). There is plenty of space to park at this end of Halliwell Street. Coming from Rochdale on the bus get off at the stop after the one by the Crown and Shuttle and walk through Thistleyfields to Halliwell Street. If anyone wants to leave early, it is easy to walk across Firgrove Playing Fields and exit on to Uncouth Road opposite Halliwell Street. If anyone needs further directions, please phone Celia (07746059588). There are no toilets on the walking route.

Cons & Ed Event : Thus 30th May 10.30am : Tulip Grove Survey : Jenny Short

Tulip Grove is a small area of land bordered by the old railway line and housing estates off Whitworth Road.

We want to do a biodiversity survey to record what we find in the way of plants, birds, insects etc. If you are interested in coming along please book at [RFNS \(rfspublicity@gmail.com\)](mailto:rfspublicity@gmail.com) as numbers are limited.

The survey is expected to take two to three hours so you may want to bring a drink or lunch. Parking is available on Thrum Hall Lane or on Whitworth Road.



Manchester Festival of Nature : Sun 30th June 1 – 4pm : Janet Gerrard

We are planning on having a presence at the Manchester Festival of Nature at Heaton Park on Sunday 30th June from 1 - 4pm. This is a family friendly event with a variety of organisations offering various activities introducing visitors to Manchester's wildlife.

If you have any good ideas and/or would like to get involved on the day please let me know via fnspublicity@gmail.com and we will arrange a time for us all to get together to plan for what should be an exciting day. For more info about the event see <https://www.lancswt.org.uk/events/manchester-festival-of-nature>



Sun 9th - Sat 15th June Wyre Estuary Country Park Bioblitz – a plea for help

We have been approached by Jean Wilson, who many of you met on our coach trip to Wyre Estuary Country Park last July. Jean and her team organise a Bioblitz at the park every three years. This year it is running from Sunday 9th June to Saturday 15th June.

Jean is asking for volunteers to help record wildlife. You choose what you want to record and when. There will be experts on hand to help and microscopes and equipment will be set up in the Riverside Room along with refreshments. Ian Coote will be recording birds most days, David Earle from LERN will be recording botany, Alan and Hilary Bedford will be concentrating on Diptera and Coleoptera. This is a great opportunity to work with people with similar interests. If you can let me know if you are interested, I can put you in touch with Jean Wilson to sort out dates etc. **So far there are three members interested in going on Thursday 13th June.** If a few of us want to go, I am sure we can organise car sharing. Linda Turner (ltturner4@virginmedia.com)

This month our poet has chosen trees as her theme.

Quercus - The Oak Tree

1

Soft roll the gentle hills of England, catching the glance of the Sun
And this small patch which is my home, until my years are run -
Five hundred or perhaps a 1,000, when I'll be renowned -
To see the tree, a witness free - pilgrims will astound!

2

Harvest from my fecund parent, I made my only voyage.
Hidden with siblings beneath the soil - an industrious jay's forage.
Warm spring urged change, I swelled, I split, deep down my anchor grew.
My delicate shoot rose to the light, to start a life anew.

3

By chance avoiding herbivores, the scythe and walkers' tread -
Years passed - my shoot a sturdy trunk, with healthy branches spread.
I am a refuge; safe I keep the secrets life holds in confidence.
Trysts and nuptials, prayers to Gods and pledges of consonance.

4

Oh, welcome winged and able creatures, shelter in my care.
Seeking succour insects' buzz gives music to the air.
Twittering, courting, squabbling, roosting, birds a-procreating.
Snakes and bats hide undetected, mammals chasing, hiding.

5

At my feet there's colourful food for man and slugs and snails.
These friendly fungi present to me my basic minerals.
As thanks I give the sugars I make from Sun and in my leaves.
I need the symbiotic web, that Nature wisely weaves.

6

I pay a price - irritants that bite and ones that eat my foliage -
Dig holes into my solid wood, my bark and branches pillage.
My acorns spoiled by eggs and grubs of insects my fruit allure.
I cannot scratch or move away from ills I must endure.

7

I accept a natural tempest, uprooted, laid kissing the mud
Or disease spread from abroad, to eat away my life-blood.
Much far greater than these I fear man's greedy selfish yearning -
My only value - my precious wood - for building, worse for burning.

8

But now I am at peace with life, throughout the whole year's cycle.
I sleep the cold, awake in Spring, to watch my leaves' arrival.
Enjoying closeness with my sangha, all Summer I laze around.
Autumnal abscission of leaves and seeds I shed upon the ground.
Harmonious let my days be passed, with love and far from strife.
Let all the World rejoice with me in this idyllic life.

Lorna-Lucy Doherty née Entwisle : Bacup 23rd April 2024

June Newsletter

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

Newsletter Title Colour Coding : Green = Society Information Red = Member Contribution