



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

August 2024 Newsletter

August Dates

Fri 2nd Aug : Stoney Hill Workday

Tues 6th Aug : Litter pick & Tidy at Stoney Hill

Sat 10th Aug : Coach Trip : Smardale: 9.00am ***BOOKING NEED***

Thurs 22th Aug : Local Walk : Healey Dell Area : 10.30am

****FRIDAY** 30th Aug** : Con & Ed Event : Flowering plants & grasses ID : Stoney Hill : 10.00am

ADVANCED NOTICE :

Sat 14th Sept : Coach Trip : **Hest Bank** : 9.00am ***BOOKING NEED*** Due to issues finding suitable parking for the coach at Glasson Dock, we have switched the destination for the September coach trip to Hest Bank, which is located just north of Morecombe.

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/

Coach Trip : Saturday 10th Aug : Smardale : John & Shirley Hall

The coach will drop off at Newbiggin-on-Lune and stay there until mid-afternoon and then continue to Ravenstonedale to the Black Swan for refreshments and cakes!

Those not wishing to complete the full walk can walk up the disused railway line as far as the Smardale Gill Viaduct then retrace their steps to the coach and be driven round to Ravenstonedale.

Those wishing to complete the full walk will also walk to the viaduct but will then descend into the valley and walk along paths and tracks back to Ravenstonedale. The return path is slightly different than in previous years and incorporates a few styles.

The trip is open to friends and family. The coach will leave Manchester Road cul-de-sac at 9.00am prompt and set off on the return journey at 5.00pm. The cost is £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. Please note 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 2024/2025 : 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 2025.
- 3) New members who joined during August 2024 do not need to renew their memberships until September 2025.

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 send it to your bank or set it up online, informing the treasurer of this update at RFNSTreasurer@gmail.com
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 or the membership secretary your cheque at any RFNS event or send it to the Treasurer's address as detailed on the membership form.

Cash - Pay me or the membership secretary at any RFNS event.

Local Walk : Thursday 22nd Aug : 10.30am : Spodden Valley in Healey Dell to Prickshaw and perhaps Fern Isle Wood : Karen & Rock Cowley

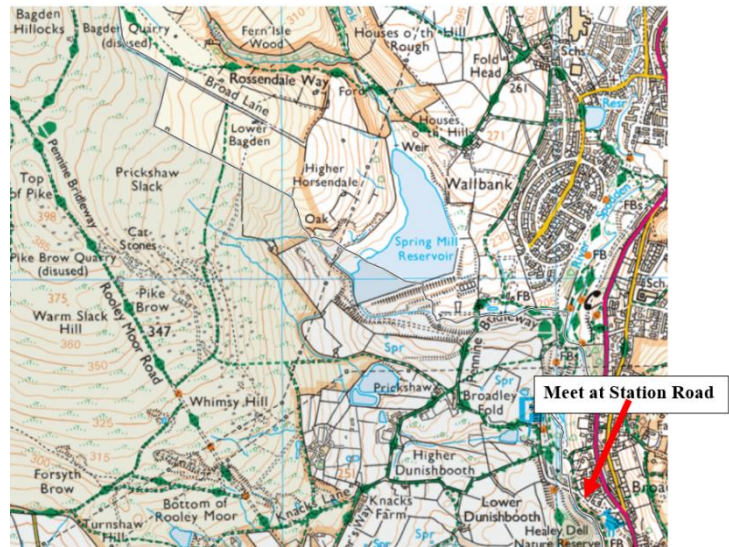
Meet at Station Road, Broadley at 10.30am. (just north of Healey Corner on A671 from Rochdale to Bacup) SD 881 161; OL12 8RT

Join the group on its monthly Biological Recording Day. The group hopes to observe and identify birds, flowers and insects on this summer day.

The exact route will depend on weather conditions on the day – we have been singularly unlucky with the weather on recent attempts to lead walks in this area – so fingers crossed we can get higher than usual and find easy access to Fern Isle Wood! This would replicate part of the route followed by RFNS members in 1882!

Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and your Field Guides. Beginners are welcome.

Leaders:- Rick and Karen Cowley 01706 853791



Con & Ed Event : Identification of Flowering Plants & Grasses : **FRIDAY** 30th Aug : 10.00am – 12noon : Stoney Hill: Pete Knowles & Jan Kidd



The August event on Stoney Hill will be on Friday 30th August from 10.00 am until 12.00 pm, when we will be surveying the area for flowers and grasses. So far, we have identified 105 flowers and 13 species of grass. Let's find some more! The event is open to everyone but children **MUST** be accompanied. Bring a drink, biscuits provided. Meet at the information board on Stoney Hill, OL11 5BP. Hope to see you there

2025 RFNS Calendar : Pam Crofts

Unusually I am not issuing an appeal for photographs for next year's calendar. Instead, I am going to plunder the wealth of images posted by our members on our Facebook Page. I know not everyone posts on it but there are a staggering amount of fantastic photos which would be great to share with everyone.

Coach Trip to Hest Bank, Morecombe Bay – Sat 14th Sept 2024 – Charlie Farrell



Due to issues finding suitable parking for the coach at Glasson Dock, we have switched the destination for the September coach trip to Hest Bank, which is located just north of Morecombe, a place that the society visited in 2009 and 2014. The coastal location along the southern edge of Morecombe Bay and gently sloping beach means that it is a good spot for waders and waterfowl. In September we should be able to enjoy flocks of many different species of migrating waders and ducks including some sea-ducks such as Eider and perhaps some Common Scoter or Divers. The vegetation along the shoreline is likely to include Lax-Flowered Sea-Lavender, Spear-Leaved Orache, Sea Aster,

Harebell and Sea Purslane along with Sea Plantain and Sea Milkwort. High Tide that day will be at 08:52 and low-tide is at 15:44, so the beach will be accessible all day.

Cafes and toilets are available at the Shore Café and also at the Archers Café and finally at the Bay View Garden Centre, at the end of our route along the shoreline.

Walkers will have the option to return back along the shoreline path or to join the Canal at Bolton-le-sands and to return to Hest Bank via the Canal towpath.

“Poetry is good for your brain and soul”

Lucy, our RFNS poet, has composed this tribute to Dr Michael Mosley, who died recently. She wonders if people enjoy reading her work, but tells me she enjoys researching and writing them. It keeps her mind active. I'm sure that Dr Mosley would approve.

“Embrace the Rain” **Tribute to Dr Michael Mosley**

The rain, the rain, the rain, the rain!
So wet and cold and windy again.
Walking in long wet grasses waist-high
Looking upwards at the blackened sky.

Hoping to see West-horizon lightened
Knowing my being is being enlightened
By dreams of sunnier clement weather
And strolling dear friends in comfort together.

Thoughts turn to the prospect of currants still green,
Which know not the Jet Stream up there unseen.
‘They’ say it is caused by Global Warming,
Which is rather odd and somewhat alarming.

“But wait!” says Michael, who tells us the air
Is cleansed by the rain. “Be aware
Of a perfume and deeply breathe in
The scent which rises from newly wet earth - geosmin.”

So, welcome the showers - sincerely smile.
Allow the inclemency the blusters beguile.
To change the weather 'tis but in vain,
So, open your mind - there's so much to gain.
“Embrace the Rain”.

Lorna LUCY DOHERTY née Entwisle : 24th July 2024

Addendum

Dr Michael Hugh Mosley, presenter, writer, health, Nature lover.

born 1957 Calcutta India, died Sympy Greece 5th June 2024

BBC "Just One Thing"

1st Nov 2023 podcast "Embrace the Rain"

Petrichor - the distinct way that dry earth smells after rain.

Comes partly from bacteria in soil.

Releases odorant - geosmin - serotonin

Decreases c-reactive protein - a marker of inflammation

Made by the liver

Negative ions in the air after rain.

Inhaled when in environments that contain moving water.

References

Wikipedia, Labanimal, NIH National Library of Medicine

September Newsletter

If you have something you would like included in the September newsletter, please send it to rfsnewsletter@gmail.com by Friday 23rd Aug.

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

Keep an eye on your emails as well as our information sources :

www.rochdalefieldnaturalists.org.uk

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