



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

November 2024 Newsletter

November Dates

Fri 1st Nov : Stoney Hill Workday : 10.00am

Thurs 14th Nov : Indoor Meeting : The Work of the Woodland Trust : 7.30pm : Cutgate

Sat 16th Nov : **CAR** trip : Martin Mere Wetland Centre : 9.00am M/C Rd or 10.30am MMW

Sat 23rd Nov : A Festive Invitation from Lucy Doherty : Bacup : 10.00am

Thurs 28th Nov: Local Walk : Hollingworth Lake/Shaw Moss area : 10:30am

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/

Rochdale Field Naturalists' is run by, and for its members, and we encourage everyone to plan and participate in our activities.

The smooth running of the Society depends on members taking an active role. We are approaching that time of year when we will be looking for nominations for the elected officer posts. This year we need people to consider standing for Co-chair and Treasurer to join the Steering Group. Please read through the attached description of these roles and consider whether this is something you could do. Steering Group meetings take place four times a year. The roles require someone who is organised and computer literate.

We are always looking for people to join the teams who organise events or to volunteer to lead a walk or coach/car trip. We also need people to help with publicity who could offer skills in updating the website, writing for the newsletter, and supporting the Facebook page. We also need someone to help with booking speakers for the indoor meetings.

If you think you might be the person for one of these roles please let us know by speaking to one of the Steering Group or emailing ltturner4@virginmedia.com or rfnstreasurer@gmail.com for more information.

Indoor Meeting : Thurs 14th Nov : The Work of the Woodland Trust : 7.30pm Cutgate

Our speaker this month is Andrew Bonehill of the Woodland Trust. He will be telling us about the work done the Woodland Trust in the Northwest of England. The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. They create havens for wildlife by planting millions of trees every year, campaign for new laws to protect ancient woodland and restore damaged ancient woods so they can breathe again.



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

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.

Car Trip : Sat 16th Nov : Martin Mere Wetland Centre : Linda Turner & Laura Ettrick

Please note that in November we are having a car trip rather than a coach trip.

We intend to leave from Manchester Road at 9.00am and should be at Martin Mere by 10.30am

Please let us know via the rfnspublicity@gmail.com or the WhatsApp group if:

1. You can offer a lift (and say how many places you can offer)
2. You need a lift
3. You are going directly to Martin Mere

We will try to match those who need a lift with those offered.



Martin Mere Wetland Centre, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 0TA is managed by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust.

When we visit in November there should be lots to see:

At 11.30am and 2.30pm, they feed the Asian short-clawed otters. The feed includes a talk and you can get up close to the otter to get some amazing photos

Discovery Hide : 2.00pm - 3.00pm. There will be a guide to help you identify and tell you about the migratory species.

Discovery Hide : 3.00pm - 3.30pm Whooper Swan and wild bird feed with commentary.

Raines Observatory : 3.30pm Whooper Swan and wild bird feed. (No commentary)

The centre is open 9-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m.

Admission Prices are: Adult £16.50 Concessions (65+) £14.81 WWT members free.

For more details visit <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/martin-mere/>

A Festive Invitation from Lucy Doherty : Saturday 23rd November : Bacup : 10.00am

Following the success of previous years' events, Lucy is once again inviting members to join her on a short stroll near her home on the moors above Bacup. It's a "down up down up" route with one stile taking about two hours. Can be muddy.

This will be followed by seasonal refreshments at Lucy's house. Vegetarians etc catered for.

There is no need to bring a packed lunch.

If you don't want the walk or wish to shorten it, you are welcome to wait at my house in the warmth!

At 300m elevation, there is risk of snow and ice up there, even when Bacup itself is clear.

If you would like to come, please can you email rfnspublicity@gmail.com by Thursday 21st

November at the latest, so that we know who to expect. If you need a lift please say in your email and we will try to arrange it. If you haven't been to Lucy's house before, please say in your email and we will send detailed directions.

Local Walk : Hollingworth Lake/Shaw Moss area : Thurs 28th Nov 10.30am :Trevor Parry



Please meet at the Hollingworth Lake V.C. Car Park at 10.30 am.

(Rakewood Road, Littleborough OL15 0AQ; Grid Reference: SD 940 152)

CAR PARK CHARGES : Up to 2 hours: £1; Up to 4 hours: £2; Up to 6 hours: £3

The exact route will depend on weather conditions on the day but will take in much of the track round the lake, as well as Shaw Moss, Branch Road and the Rochdale Canal Towpath. We will hope for winter ducks on the Lake and migrant thrushes in the

trees and bushes along the route. There are at least 3 stiles along the route but none are particularly awkward. One short section can be unpleasantly muddy after wet weather.

Bring a packed lunch and binoculars.

Drinks and snacks are available at the RSPCA café at the start and finish, but there are no refreshment facilities (or toilets) once we leave the Lake.

RFNS Social Event : Joan Carter

I am doing a survey regarding the society's social event, so I would like you all to answer the following questions and email me your answers at joan.ecarter@tiscali.co.uk or speak to me in person at one of our events.

- 1) What type of social would you like?
 - (a) An evening meal
 - (b) A lunchtime meal
 - (c) An afternoon tea
- 2) In which month would you prefer it to take place?
- 3) Do you have a preference for a venue? Some ideas would be most welcome.

I await your responses.

"The Quiet Life" **by A. Pope***

Happy the snail whose wish and care
A few ancestral meters bound,
Content to breathe its native air
In its own ground.

Whose beds with food, whose soils with moisture,
Whose neighbours give him rich protein;
Whose stones in summer yield him cloister,
In winter unseen.

Lucky who can unconcern'dly plight
Minutes, hours and days slide soft away
In health of body active by night.
Sleep by day.

Thus, let me live, unseen, to dwell;
Thus, unlamented let me die;
Steal from the world and not a shell
Tell where I lie.

Addendum

*Alexander Pope 1688-1744 English satirical poet. (Please note the first line of stanza 3 "unconcern'dly". This is the word Alexander Pope used so, my spelling is correctly copied from his)

Examples of common snails occurring in UK

Phylum: Mollusca

Class: Gastropoda

Cornu aspersum - common garden snail,

pale brown rough calcareous shell

2.5-4.0cm height and width

4-5 whorls

Capaea nemoralis - brown-lipped or banded snail

colourful, yellow, pink,

up to 5 horizontal dark bands on shell

2.0-2.4cm

Aegopinella nitidula - glassy snail

orange-brown shiny flat shell

up to 10mm

References:

Internet Archive, NHBS, Wiki, Google, NatureSpot

December Newsletter

If you have something you would like included in the December newsletter, please send it to rfsnewsletter@gmail.com by Monday 25th Nov.

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

www.facebook.com/groups/965410946937744/ and our WhatsApp page



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Society**