



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

January 2025 Newsletter

Dear RFNS Members

Many of you will be aware of the very sad news that Linda Turner, Co-Chair of the Society, died suddenly on Thursday 5th December.

Linda was a well-loved and very active member of the Society for many years. As well as leading the Society as Co-Chair, Linda also led the Indoor Team in arranging interesting speakers for our monthly meetings at Cutgate and spent a lot of time liaising with outside organisations on behalf of the Society, among many other things. She will be very sadly missed, and I'm sure you will all join me in offering her husband Terry, her family and her many friends our sincere condolences.

Linda's funeral was on Friday the 20th December at 2pm at the Rochdale crematorium. Thank you to the many Fields Nats who attended the funeral to support Linda's husband, Terry, as this sad time. Please find a copy of the Order of Service attached to this email.



January Dates

Wed 1st Jan 2025 : New Year's Day Bird Challenge : Dawn 'til Dusk

Thurs 9th Jan 2025 : Indoor Meeting : AGM & Local Nature Recovery Strategy : 7.30pm : Cutgate

Sat 11th Jan 2025 : Coach Trip : Llanfairfechan OR Conwy : 9.00am : ***BOOKING NEEDED***

Thurs 16th Jan 2025 : Local Recording Walk/Car Trip : 12noon : Dunelm, Rochdale

ADVANCED NOTICE :

Sat 15th Feb 2025 : Coach Trip : RSPB Old Moor : 9.00am ***BOOKING NEEDED***

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/

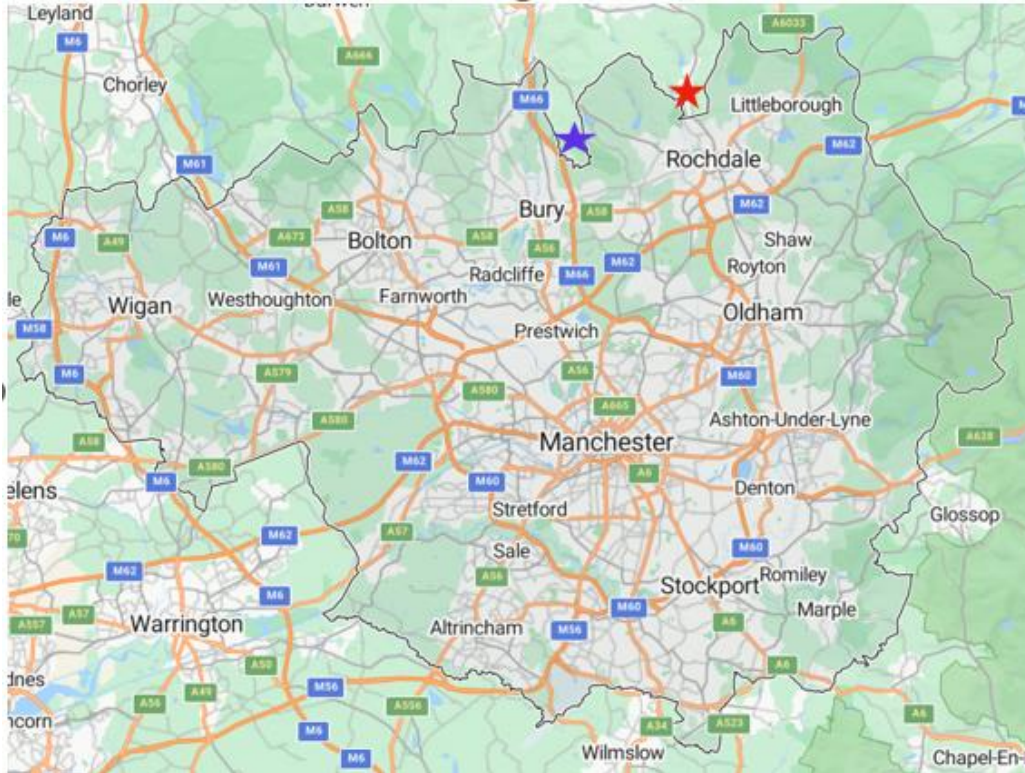
2025 New Years Day Birding Challenge : Wed 1st Jan 2025 : Dawn 'til Dusk: Pam Crofts

Another year, and yet another list!

Following the success of our 2024 NYD challenge you are invited to kickstart your 2025 bird list by joining the RFNS birding challenge on Wednesday 1st January 2025.

The objective for the day is to record as many bird species as you can within Greater Manchester* between the hours of dawn (**7.42am**) to dusk (**16.42pm**). There's no commitment to do the full 9 hours, just half an hour or so looking out of your window with a cup of your favourite beverage in hand is fine. It is also up to you how far you travel and whether you walk, drive, or use any other method of transport. You can enter either as an individual or as a team (max 4) and can go to locations anywhere within Greater Manchester. However, you must be at the designated meeting point in Rochdale (The Baum on Toad Lane) at the finish time of **5.00pm** so plan your route carefully!

* Greater Manchester boundary map



★ **Healey Dell** - is also included although it isn't all in Greater Manchester

★ **A680** - the area to the south west of the A680 between Ashworth Reservoir and Edenfield can also be included as the boundary here is complex.

See separate attachment for detailed rules. *If you are going to take part then please let me know by emailing me on rfnspublicity@gmail.com (please put birding challenge in the subject) and I will get back to you to confirm the finalised details.*

Indoor Meeting: Thurs 9th Jan : AGM & GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy : 7.30pm : Cutgate

The postponed AGM will take place prior to the talk by Paul Barrington. There will be no charge for entry to members. We expect the AGM to take no longer than half an hour.

Our speaker for is Paul Barrington, who is the Biodiversity Systems Manager for Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU). Paul will be giving us an update on how the Draft GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been developed, making use of habitat and species data to define opportunity areas. Mapmate species data from the RFNS was incorporated into the spatial models to shape the Nature Network across

Rochdale. Paul will also touch upon the importance of ensuring your records are available to local decision and policy makers. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and feedback your views, so please read the draft LNRS before the meeting. The feedback deadline is 31st January 2025. Find out more and take part in the consultation visit: www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/lnrs



Coach Trip : Sat 11th Jan 2025 : Llanfairfechan OR Conwy RSPB reserve : Pat & Maggie Culkin

This trip is to Llanfairfechan, one of the best locations for winter birding along the North Wales Coast. The area is at the north end of the Menai Strait, looking out towards north Anglesey and Puffin Island. High tide will be about 08.30, so hopefully when we arrive it will be mid tide and we should see waders and sea birds on the sands. We will lead a 4 mile walk along the coastal path,

looking out over the Lavan Sands coastal reserve and passing the edge of a wood. We'll then go through the Morfa Madryn nature reserve. This is an area of salt marsh and coastal grassland. It has three hides, all of which are small. Two overlook the marshland and pools. These seat only about 8 people maximum. The third hide is the largest (may seat 12 people) has viewing on three sides, it overlooks the shore and also the marshland.

There is a café on the prom in the main car park – it's called the Beach Pavillion Café. We will check a few days before the trip if they are going to be open. There are a couple of other cafes in Llanfairfechan and we'll give more information about these on the coach, which we are hoping to park close to the main car park (coaches can't reach it), of at least drop off / pick up there.

The coach will leave Llanfairfechan at 4.00pm and those coming are asked to be back at the coach no later than 3.45pm.

RSPB CONWY

There is an option to visit Conwy RSPB reserve instead, which is on the north bank of the mouth of the river Conwy. It has a good visitor centre and cafe and several hides. A 1.5 miles walk will take you into the centre of Conwy. **IF** the weather on the day is foul everyone may decide to spend the day here. The coach will drop members off at the reserve **and pick them up about 4.15 / 4.30.** People visiting the reserve are asked to be around the visitor centre at 4.00pm. For more info visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/conwy>

****See attached for maps of both destinations****

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 4.00pm.

The cost is £20. Contact rfnspubcity@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 rfnspubcity@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.

Local Recording Walk/Car Trip : Thurs 16th Jan : Karen Cowley

"Winter Birding on Rochdale's Reservoirs"

Do you dislike eating your butties seated on frozen ground under leaden skies...? Well, in January we plan to repeat the successful day we spent in January 2023

- Have an early lunch at home
- Meet at 12 noon at the top end of Dunelm's Car Park, Whitworth Rd, Rochdale OL12 0TY
- Share cars to visit 2 or 3 places in the Borough where we expect good things may turn up.
- To reduce our carbon footprint, we will try to share lifts during the afternoon.
- Finish about dusk (4.15 – 4.45pm) somewhere where there is a fair chance that significant numbers of birds may come to roost.
- The itinerary will be decided on the day by Steve Atkins and Paul Whiting when we know "What's About?" – so all drivers will be told the route at the first meeting place.

- **Karen will try to match vehicles and passengers if you let her know in advance.**

Volunteer drivers may wish to pick up members who live near them – please let Karen know if you have any spare places.

- Members who have no transport and need a lift – let Karen know.
- Bring a warm drink, your binoculars and telescope if you have one.
- Wear suitable warm clothing and footwear – you may have a short but easy walk from cars to viewpoints.

N.B. (i) If volunteer drivers have filled all their places already - let Karen know they intend to come so she can tell you on the day if it makes sense for you to go straight to the first viewpoint instead of the central meeting point.

(ii) the charges for Dunelm's car park (you MUST take a ticket) are Up to 3 hours: FREE; up to 5 hours for under £2, £5 for over 6 hours – but from this meeting point we can go off in any direction within the Borough.

Organiser: Karen Cowley 01706 853791

Data on RFNS Members : Vipul Parkinson: Membership Secretary

The society holds contact details (address/phone/email) of all current RFNS members. If your contact details have changed within the last few years, please could you inform RFNS. For those members who have given their new details within the past 6 months please disregard this reminder.

The society holds most of our longstanding members' landline numbers. If you currently have a mobile number and would be happy to share that with us, could you also inform RFNS.

The society also has our own RFNS WhatsApp group. If you are happy to join our WhatsApp group, please let us know and we will send you a joining request.

If you are sending your updated details, please email to the society's Membership Secretary at smvipulp@yahoo.co.uk

Our very own poet has written the following, and dedicated it to Linda.

New Year Plans

Linda Turner - knowledgeable, full of fun

Now comes the time for forward vision.
Learn from the past to make amends, to think,
To plan a new beginning, a mission
Directing the privileged how to make a link.

A link to what we've pastly learned
To help decide on how to make a change
To judgements previously discerned -
From selfish passion to worldly logic exchange.

A pristine page to be written upon't -
Once again - coming of days a-lengthening
Give careful thought to what you want
Then closely watch how life is awakening.

Peeping through the snow you'll see
Little points of life towards our Star.
First flower-nectar enticing a bee
From his tubular cocoon thence wended afar.

First willow warbler - ecstatically wallow
In its never-ending repetitive stasis.
Use NOW with care - the rest will follow -
With loving judiciously, with wisdom as basis.

Keep them in sight - stay with your plans.
They are your children, so enjoy every moment.
In the warmth take their stance,
When life might be cold - but without lament.
A Happy New Year will be spent.....

Lorna-Lucy Doherty née Entwisle
Bacup - 19th December 2024

February Newsletter : If you have something you would like included in the February 2025 newsletter, please send it to rfsnewsletter@gmail.com by Friday 24th Jan.