



August 2025 Newsletter

August Dates

Sat 16th Aug : Coach trip : Staveley, Knaresborough ***BOOKING NEEDED***

Thurs 21st Aug : Local Walk : Blackstone Edge : 10.30am

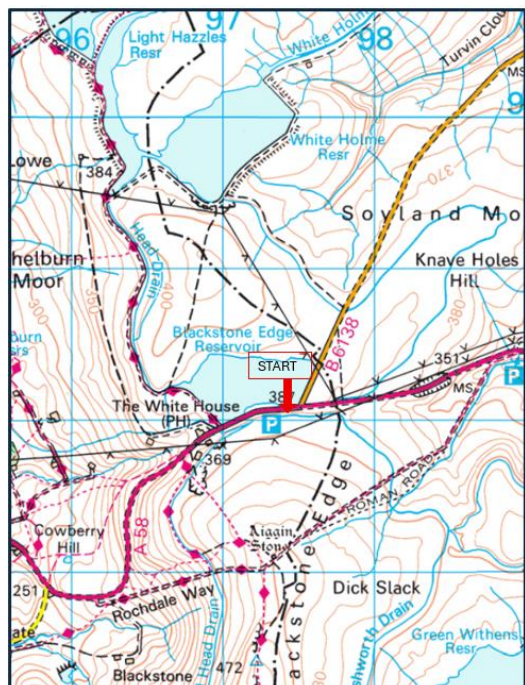
Sat 30th Aug : Stoney Hill Event : Woodland Family Activity Day : 10.30am – 3.30pm

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/

Local Walk : Thurs 21st Aug : Blackstone Edge : 10.30am : Trevor Parry



Meet at 10.15am for a 10.30am start at the layby beside the A58, opposite Blackstone Edge reservoir, just before the junction with B6138 Turvin Rd.

[Grid reference SD974180; OL15 0LG, What 3 Words = uppermost.danger.slams]

By Public Transport the 587 Rochdale to Halifax Service stops at the White House pub 5 mins away.

The walk will explore terrain on both sides of the A58 but the chosen route will depend on the weather and conditions underfoot. These may decide which side of the A58 we visit first as one of the routes is considerably longer (but flatter) than the other.

The Southern route leaves the main road near the White House and, after a short steep rise, follows Broad Head drain before climbing up to the Aigin Stone. From there we will descend on the Old Packhorse Road in a N.E. direction till we meet a drainage channel with a path alongside leading back to the A58 layby. If the August weather has been wet this route may be muddy and a more direct route back may be chosen.

The Northern section leaves the A58 at the western edge of Blackstone Edge reservoir and follows the Pennine Way as far as Light Hazles reservoir, where a good track leads off to White Holmes reservoir and continues on to meet Turvin Rd about 0.5 miles from A58. This involves a walk along the side of Turvin Rd where care will be needed, although it isn't usually busy.

With the exception of the Old Packhorse Rd the route is firm underfoot throughout with only one very short and one rather long uphill pull. There is one sturdy stile.

On recent recces I have been fortunate enough to see Linnets, Twite, a Short-eared owl, Common sandpiper, Redshank, Little ringed plover and dozens of Meadow pipits as well as a fair number of butterflies. On previous RFNS walks in this area a good number of damsel and dragonflies have been identified along the moorland drains.

For many years an Ice Cream van used to be parked regularly in the layby but sadly it has not been seen for a couple of years. There should be refreshments available at the White House from noon.



Coach Trip : Sat 16th Aug : Staveley Nature Reserve YWT, North Yorkshire: Pam & Roger Crofts

Departure 9.00am from **Morrisons Supermarket car park in Heywood**, return journey leaving Staveley at 5.00 pm.

This Yorkshire Wildlife Trust wetland site lying close to the River Tutt holds year-round interest for visitors with regular sightings of Otters and several orchid species among the highlights. Staveley Nature Reserve, formerly known as Staveley Carrs, has been renowned for rare plants for centuries. Today, this large, accessible site has been sculpted through quarrying activities followed by decades of work by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and dedicated volunteers.

The site is in two parts; the East Lagoon edged with natural vegetation that was allowed to develop freely comprising of fen, reed swamp and flower-rich calcareous grassland, and the West Lagoons, landscaped with a limited number of trees planted and the rest sown down to pasture, which has since been intensively grazed. The nature reserve is bordered by the River Tutt on its northern boundary and there are footpaths and hides from which to observe the varied wildlife. Small areas of fen are home to several relic species which were once widespread before the carrs were drained and transformed into farmland. Locally scarce species such as Water Violet, Marsh Helleborine and Meadow Rue can be found. Overlooking the East Lagoon, look for bubbles on the water surface along the edge of the reedbeds, or sudden panic among the resting ducks as signs of an Otter's presence. Common breeding birds include summer visitors such as Sand Martin and several species of warbler, with Common Tern breeding on the rafts put out for them. There have been 22 species of damselflies and dragonflies recorded in the main lagoons or the small ponds and ditches. Mammals are well represented with roe deer and fox amongst the larger species and Water Shrew and Harvest Mouse amongst the smaller species. Otter are seen regularly, quite often in the middle of the day, particularly in the East Lagoon. Management of the nature reserve is designed to maintain the site's important habitats of fen, flower-rich grassland, open water, wet pasture and ponds by clearing encroaching scrub, mowing and grazing.



The paths on the reserve are a mixture of surfaced and grassland paths, and the terrain is flat. A walk of just over 3 miles would cover most of the reserve but the network of paths means that shorter routes are available. There are several hides and plenty of seats around the reserve but no other facilities, however there is a pub in the village for refreshment before the journey home.

The trip is open to friends and family. But please remind your friends that :

Our trips are run by our Members for Members. Everyone joins our excursions at their own risk. The full statement on our liability may be read on our website [Disclaimer – Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society](#) and was published in the January 2025 Newsletter.

The coach will leave promptly at 9.00am from **MORRISON'S CAR PARK Dawson Street, Heywood, OL10 4PN. Park near the petrol station. If anyone is going there by bus the 471 between Rochdale, Bury and Bolton runs about every 10 minutes. The stop is only a couple of minutes away from the supermarket and you can catch it outside Rochdale Train Station.** We will 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."

Sat 30th Aug : Stoney Hill Event : Woodland Family Activity Day : 10.30am – 3.30pm

If you are looking for somewhere to take the kids or grandkids on 30th August, at absolutely no cost to yourself, come along to our Woodland Family Activity Day. Starting at 10.30am you'll find loads to keep them busy from dissecting an owl pellet, making a bird box, taking part in the pollinator trail, winning a tree badge, to making an Eco wand, plus lots, lots more. Everything is free. (Flyer attached to this Newsletter)

If you've no children or grandchildren to bring and would like to help out on the day, for as long as you can commit, get in touch with Jan Kidd on rfnspublicity@gmail.com

Hope to see you there. The address is Stoney Hill Community Wildlife Area, Bridgefold Road OL115BP



RFNS SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2025/2026 : Ruth Hardcastle Acting RFNS Treasurer

RFNS's new financial year starts on 1st September, membership renewal is due 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 2026.
- 3) New members who joined during the last 3 months of 2024/25 financial year do not need to renew their memberships until September 2026.

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. Please inform the Treasurer of your intention by email to: 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 your cheque at any RFNS event or send it to the Treasurer's address on the bank mandate attached.

Cash - Pay me at any RFNS event.

Please note we are trying to reduce the amount we receive by cash and cheques. Please only use these methods if no other option is available to you. Alternatively, please feel free to discuss with me at any meeting or event.

Membership form:

Please note the members form only needs to be filled in and returned to the Secretary if you are:

- 1) A new member
- 2) If your details have changed and you need to communicate this to the secretary for the Society's records.

Treasurer role

As many of you will be aware I handed my notice in at the last AGM and for a few months preceding the AGM we were putting out pleas for a volunteer to take on the role. Unfortunately, we have no one to take on the role.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE ROLE PLEASE DO COME FORWARD.

I am happy to be acting treasurer for the remainder of the year, but I do not want to continue into 2026.

A plea from Karen Cowley - Can you spare time to take part in a Citizen Science project to map plastic tree tubes in the environment?

Have you spotted a plastic tree guard in a hedgerow, woodland, park or roadside? Help us build a picture of where plastic tree guards are within the landscape and let us know by joining in the project below!

Join in with this new citizen science project set up by the 'Forest Plastics Working Group' to build a UK wide map of where plastic tree guards are within the environment. For a more detailed view of this project, please read the attached letter from Karen.

For information about this project :

<https://www.forestplasticsworkinggroup.co.uk/plotthatplastic>



Plastic PVC Spiral Tree Guard
(Spirals around the tree)



Tube Guard - Comes in different materials

RFNS WhatsApp Groups Guidelines

The RFNS WhatsApp Main Group (white logo) was set up for **urgent** messages relating directly to RFNS activities such as news, reminders and enquiries about trips, surveys, meetings, last minute changes, etc. Therefore, we encourage all members to join the RFNS WhatsApp Group.

This group is also the place to post a message if you get lost going to a venue, or left your bag on the coach, or aren't going to make it to an event where you are expected.

Please beware of reflex posting 'likes' etc. which just increase traffic.

Our second group RFNS Chat & Sightings (yellow logo) WhatsApp Group is an alternative to our Facebook page. You can post local sightings, ID requests (particularly if local), local nature news and your flora and fauna photos.



If you belong to the Main Group but not the Chat & Sighting Group and **really** can't face joining it, **PLEASE** ask an admin (currently Ian Short and Laura Ettrick) to post on the latter group on your behalf with any news that you wish to pass on. Ideally please contact Ian or Laura by WhatsApp Direct Message so we can just forward it.

This will preserve the urgency of the former group.

Please use your real name on these groups, so we know who's who and remember that your comments will be seen by all members of the group, so please be kind and respectful.

Please respect other people's privacy and avoid direct messaging members whom you don't know personally.

If you get annoyed by your phone pinging, you can turn off notifications, but ideally please leave on for the 'white' group so they get urgent messages. Get in contact if you need help to turn off notifications.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

The Stars and The Sun **Lucy Entwisle**

1. The life of a star begins up there
As a cloud of dust and gasses.
In interstellar space up there,
Where the Nebula amasses.

2. Gravity draws the cloud contracting
Towards a dense hot core.
Eventually the cloud collapsing -
Hence the Protostar.

3. Fusing hydrogen into helium
Has reached it's longest stage -
Inward gravity, outward pressure - continuum
At last, a venerable age.

4. Hydrogen fuel now consumed
A shell around the core it fuses.
Outer layers expand, cool, illumined -
The Red Giant emerges.

5. A Supernova Explosion - collapse -
Red Supergiants dramatic
Becoming a Neutron Star - or perhaps
A Black Hole emphatic.

6. Small Planetary Nebula quietly morph.
How quickly time doth fly!
White Dwarf... Black Dwarf...
Even The Sun must die...

Addendum

E&OE, Refs : Google AI, Wiki

Nebula:

Cloud of gas and dust mostly hydrogen and helium, in space between existing stars, can span vast distances.

Gravitational Collapse:

Instabilities, like gravity, collision with other clouds or shockwaves can cause the nebula to collapse on itself and form a dense hot core.

Protostar Formation:

As nebula collapses it fragments into smaller clumps, which become denser and hotter, forming a protostar.

Nuclear Fusion:

As protostar contracts, core temperature reaches about 10 million ° C, hydrogen atoms fuse to form helium releasing energy.

Main sequence star:

Star enters stable phase where energy released by fusion causes outward pressure, which balances inward pull of gravity.

Stellar Evolution:

Massive stars - red supergiants - supernovae - neutron stars - black holes

Smaller stars eg Sun - red giants - white dwarfs - black dwarfs

Milky Way:

Is a spiral galaxy that contains The Solar System

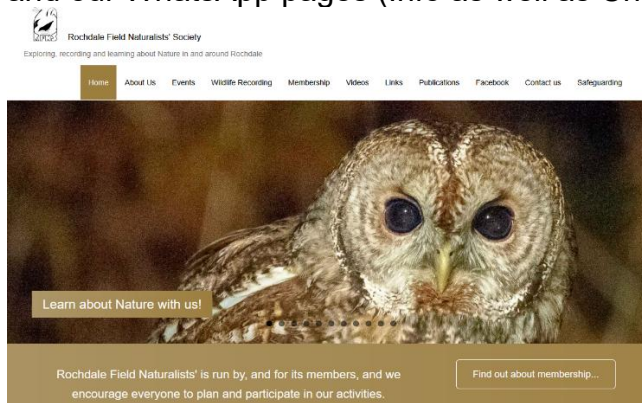
September Newsletter : If you have something you would like included in the September 2025 newsletter, please send it to rfsnewsletter@gmail.com by **Monday 25th August**

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

www.rochdalefieldnaturalists.org.uk

www.facebook.com/groups/965410946937744/

and our WhatsApp pages (Info as well as Chat)



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