



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

July 2025 Newsletter

July Dates

Thurs 17th July : Local Walk : Ealees Valley and Whittaker : 10.30am

Sat 19th July : Car Trip : North Cave, Yorkshire

ADVANCED NOTICE :

Sat 16th Aug : Coach trip : Staveley, Knaresborough ***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/

Local Walk : Thurs 17th July : Ealees Valley and Whittaker : *NO LEADER*****

Can anyone volunteer to lead this Local Walk?

REMEMBER : Our mission statement says "Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society is run by, and for its members, and we encourage everyone to plan and participate in our activities." **No volunteers = No trips**

Meet at 10.30 am at Hollingworth Lake Visitor Centre, Rakewood Road, Littleborough OL15 0AQ (SD 939 152)
Car park charges apply = Up to 2 hours: £2; Up to 4 hours £4; Over 4 hours £5. There are Toilets open at the RSPCA centre. This will be the Society's monthly

recording walk and in July we expect to be seeing more invertebrates and if the day is warm possibly dragonflies by the brook and Ponds. This area has an interesting history and our route will pass through the medieval hamlet of Whittaker where farmers and hand loom weavers lived. In bad weather there is shelter in the woods. The route is about 4 miles long and follows waymarked public footpaths on good tracks or old lanes and overall is of medium difficulty. There are some steep paths which can be muddy after bad weather so wear sturdy shoes or boots. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and your Field Guides if you have them.

Please contact rfnpublicity@gmail.com if you can lead this trip or if you need a lift to the start point. We encourage members to share vehicles and costs where possible.

Car Trip : 19th July : North Cave, Yorkshire for Insects : Paul Whiting



Meet at 10.30am at
North Cave Wetlands
Dryham Lane
Market Weighton
HU15 2LY

Drive time on Google maps is 1 hr 15 mins
74 miles from Rochdale so leaving at
9.00am should do it. Its only 3 miles from
the M62

On site facilities include a covered area for
eating, 2 composting toilets and parking.
The Butty Bus mobile catering van which
serves burgers, chips and bacon baps etc.
as well as hot and cold drinks.

The site a former sand and gravel quarry but now is a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust site and one of their best as they say :

"From quarries and lorries to avocets and bitterns, the ongoing transformation of this working sand and gravel quarry into a shining example of a 21st-century wetland is truly extraordinary."

<https://www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/north-cave-wetlands-nature-reserve>

A circular footpath runs around the perimeter of the reserve which take one to two hours to complete. Footpaths are mainly grass and stone surface - all on a flat level for very easy walking (Recently upgraded to complete circular path for better access).

There are six hides on site, East, South, North, Turret and Crosslands and the New hide. All hides except Turret are fully accessible with wheelchair viewing space. All hides have benches.

We will be looking at Invertebrates including Dragonflies, Damsels, Butterflies as well as birds. I am expecting upwards of 60 species during our visit. Watch out for Grass Snakes as they are regularly reported. The Sand Martin banking can be busy and check for the Little Owl near Dryham farm (nest box visible from the new hide). A walk along Dryham Lane can be productive, checking fields and hedgerows as well as the trees for butterflies, birds and other invertebrates. You can eat your lunch at the covered area near the toilets at picnic tables or use the Crossland hide space permitting

Top tip

If you complete the circular path starting and finishing at the Butty bus you can dine and use the facilities. Following this, walk or drive back to Crosslands hide to walk the Dryham lane taking in the new workings and hide 😊

Recent sightings include

Otter, Bittern, 3 Little Owl chicks, Purple Hairstreak, Marbled White, Emerald Damselfly, Ruby Tailed Wasp.

Check out the Facebook page for up-to-date sightings

Our visit can be self-guided as you can't get lost or I'm happy to show people around.

If you need a lift let me know us know so that lifts can be sorted

If you're going to meet us there, can you let us know to expect you.

If you need a lift from Manchester Rd or can offer one, please contact fnspublicity@gmail.com several days beforehand so that we can match people up.

Would you like to be part of 'Rochdale and District Nature Watch'? : Jan Kidd

Rochdale Council have got big plans for expanding the area of land in their care into areas for wildlife. As an initial start they will be making eight areas of wildflowers in the 4 townships; Pennine, Middleton, Heywood and Rochdale. The council officers instigating this are keen to get community buy-in, to help monitor the sites, as well as so that they can show councillors and the general public the benefits to nature. As I'd like to see all of Rochdale and District supporting wildlife, I'm very keen to support the initiative, as the Council don't have enough staff or resources to do the monitoring all by themselves and have asked me if this is something Field Nats might be involved in?



I have therefore offered to co-ordinate a group who will help out with this sort of request. We would be a sub group of Con and Ed and if we can get a big enough group individuals would only be asked to help out a couple of times a year. No experience would be necessary, although of course experience would be welcome, as we would offer some simple on-site training. We would also invite non-members to join the group, and this could result in an increased membership for Field Nats. The idea is in its infancy and more structure and development of the group needs working on, so in this first instance I'm only asking for expressions of interest.

If you like the idea and would like to be a part of it, please email kiddjanice@gmail.com

Planets Poem Lucy Entwisle

1. The Planets circle The Sun our star. Eight of them including Earth. They never question what they are, Excepting Earth which knows its worth.	4. Gas giants of Jupiter and Saturn Planets as fifth and sixth follow on. Then come icy Uranus and Neptune The last of all the eight of the Sun.
2. The First four all terrestrial - Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars - Iron-cored planets celestial Shine bright amongst the other stars.	5. The Kuiper Belt is an ice-rocky domain, Where Pluto 's been demoted to asteroid, From whence come comets to Earth's terrain, Returning hence in a wide ellipticoid.
3. Mostly invisible - The Asteroid Belt - Up there in the heavens, an array Of rocky and metal objects, it is felt, A small part of the larger Milky Way.	6. Is there Planet Nine in that far direction? The solar system the Oort Cloud encase. Is there an answer to this question? - Just Watch this space....

Addendum

Refs: Google AI outlook, NASA Science, Astronomy, Wiki.

	Kind	From Sun	Diameter	Speed*	Temp C	Moons
Mercury:	Terrestrial	58m km	4,900 km	88 ds	-184/+466°	0
Venus:	Terrestrial	109m km	12,100 km	225 ds	+438/482°	0
Earth:	Terrestrial	152m km	12,756 km	365 ds	-89/+56°	1
Mars:	Terrestrial	228m km	6,792 km	687 ds	-153/+20°	2
Jupiter	Gas	768m km	139,820 k	4,333 ds	-110°	80/95
Saturn	Gas Rings	1.43b km	116,460 k	10.7 ds	-140°	274
Uranus	Ice	2.871b km	51,118 km	30,687 ds	-195°	28
Neptune	Ice	4.471b km	49,244 km	60,190 ds	-214°	16

Asteroid Belt: white torus-shaped cloud of asteroids, 1 AU* thick

Kuiper Belt: dense torus-shaped, icy/rocky dwarf planets like Pluto, 10 AU thick

Oort Cloud: spherical shell 5-100,00 AU from sun

Planet X/Nine: hypothetical, possibly 40,000 km diameter

*Earth days

*AU: astronomical Unit

Lorna Lucy Doherty née Entwisle

Bacup - 23rd June 2025

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

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)

Rochdale Field Naturalists Society
INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS AND FIELDWORKERS (INCORPORATED 1988)

