



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

June 2025 Newsletter

June Dates

Fri 6th June : M.M.U. Sustainability Festival : 11.00am – 4.00pm

Sat 14th June : Coach Trip : Kettlewell & Starbottan : 9.00am ***BOOKING NEEDED*** Please note that, due to roadworks on Manchester Rd, our usual place for parking for coach trips is no longer available, although there should still be room for the coach to pick us up.

We should be able to park higher up Old Manchester Road - (turn left after coming in from the main Manchester Road). There are usually spaces there on a Saturday. The road works will be there until the autumn.

Thurs 19th June : Local Walk : Lower Naden Valley, Rochdale : 10.30am

Fri 27th June – Fri 4th July : RFNS Anglesey Residential : Fully booked : Paul Whiting

If anyone is thinking about joining us for a day out or more it will be good to see you.

It would be worth making contact prior to travelling to confirm our plans haven't changed.

ADVANCED NOTICE :

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

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/

Friday 6th June : 11.00am – 4.00pm Sustainability Festival : Manchester Metropolitan University

We have just discovered that the Manchester Sustainability Festival, which is a ticketed event, is now sold out. The Society has been invited to provide a stall at this event. For full details see April's Newsletter. If anyone would like to organise a stall, contact us on rfnspublicity@gmail.com and we will provide assistance, tables, banner etc.

Coach Trip : Sat 14th June : Kettlewell & Starbottan : 9.00am *BOOKING NEEDED*

PLEASE NOTE : The coach will **NOT** be stopping on our journey to Kettlewell. There are toilets in Asda and also on the coach.



Located in Upper Wharfedale, it is believed that the name Kettlewell is Anglo Saxon and comes from Cetel Wella which means a bubbling spring or stream. The group walk will follow the west side of the River Wharfe upstream to Starbottan. The river is a good source of food for many animals. Look out for kingfishers, oystercatchers and dippers, as well as brown trout swimming in the calmer sections of the river. There is a more challenging route that goes via Moor End, if you choose to take this route we recommend packing a spare ankle. A search on Tripadvisor came up with 'We could not find attractions near

Starbottan'. However, there is the Fox and Hounds pub which is really pleasant inside and out. June is the ideal time to see the hay meadows along the valley. These hay meadows are some of the best in the Yorkshire Dales. They contain a variety of rare and important species of plant, such as eyebright, yellow rattle, and meadow cranesbill. We will return south to Kettlewell along the east side of the Wharfe. There are a number of step stiles with gates but these are manageable

with care. Kettlewell village has public toilets, several nice tea rooms and three good pubs. St Mary's church is well worth a visit.

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 Manchester Road cul-de-sac at **9.00am promptly ****** 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".

Leader : Peter Cloran (07502 156365)

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Local Walk : Thurs 19th June 10.30am : Lower Naden Valley Rochdale : Roger & Pam Crofts

This walk will cover areas along the Naden Brook, as it flows from Norden towards Simpson Clough. The woodland valley supports a variety of broadleaved trees, flowering and non-flowering plants. Possible bird species include Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Great-spotted Woodpecker and a variety of other woodland species. The other area we aim to explore is around Wolstenholme Fold which expands the range of habitats visited to include meadows which are often good for butterflies and other invertebrates.

The exact route is not yet known, but we anticipate a walk of no more than 5 miles and there should be a number of alternative shorter routes if people don't want to do the full day. Paths in the valley are generally good, although there are some places where they have deteriorated. The area around Wolstenholme Fold may involve some steep steps, both up and down, and a couple of stiles, depending on the route.

The walk will start at the end of Clay Lane, Norden, at the junction with Furbarn Lane, where there is ample parking.

Post code **OL11 5QW**, grid ref SD158138, What3Words ///remove.snow.maple.

Rochdale Field Naturalists Anglesey Week : June 27th - July 4th : Paul Whiting

A programme of day trips has been agreed for our week away in Anglesey staying in Aberffraw.

We intend to keep to the main schedule (subject to weather) and will try to fit in additional smaller locations where time allows.

The main daily locations are -

Sat 28th June Cemlyn NWWT plus Rock pooling

Sun 29th Inland Sea, Penrhos NR. Holyhead Harbour

Mon 30th South Stack RSPB inc Holyhead Mountain. The Ranges and Holyhead CP

Tue 1st July NNR bog sites Cors Bodeilio, Cors Goch and Cors Erddreiniog

Wed 2nd July Cors Ddyga RSPB and Maltreath Cob and Newborough

Thu 3rd July Valley Wetlands plus?? Revisit.

We also have a lot of smaller sites to fit in as and when plus Evening plans which include an off island trip to Gwaith Powder near Porthmadog to try for Nightjars and Bats.

If anyone is thinking about joining us for a day out or more it will be good to see you.

It would be worth making contact prior to travelling to confirm our plans haven't changed.

The plan is to be at our main site for 10.00am each morning. Lunch each day around 13.00 either packed lunch or local cafe/pub followed by an afternoon session and some evening sessions.

Feel free to contact Paul to discuss.



Photographs on Field Nats Media : Ian Short

Unfortunately we fell foul of an accidental copyright infringement last year – it cost the society a £250 fine that we can ill afford.

Please would ALL members note:

- All photos MUST have an attribution when posted on any RFNS media – we're delighted to have your images BUT if you post or share on our Facebook, or send us something for the website, newsletter etc you must acknowledge where you got the image from so we can attribute it properly.
It's good practice to attribute stuff properly on WhatsApp too, as people may unthinkingly forward things even from our private groups (please always ask first!)
- If it's a photo or video you took yourself, that's fantastic, but please tag the image EXIF/metadata with your name as the copyright owner - phone and digital cameras may offer the option of doing this automatically in their settings, or you may need to use a photo editing app.
Alternatively, watermark the image with your name and date (again, camera settings may enable this), or include your name and image date in a caption on the posting.
- If you're sharing someone else's image, that's much more tricky unless the photographer (not just the person who posted it) has clearly indicated it is free to share.
Otherwise, please check first by searching online for the image.
Google image search has an 'exact match' option when you upload an image to search for - it's not foolproof, but will usually find copyright images.
If the image is found on any site that charges (Alamy was the one that fined us, but there are many more) then please DO NOT post it on our media.
If it is shown as having a Creative Commons license (eg on Wikipedia) or the photographer has clearly indicated it is free to share, then add this information to the post.

Please do not assume that because an image is online already, or cute, or technically interesting, or whatever, that it is safe to publish it.

If in doubt, don't!

If you have any questions about this please speak to me. Thanks. Ian

Notes from the Acting Treasurer : Ruth Hardcastle

Reducing Cash

As you all will be aware banks are becoming scarcer and have reduced their opening hours. We feel the need to start preparing ourselves in case we are ever in the position of our bank branch closing. Consequently, we want to start reduce the amount of cash and cheques we take.

When paying the Society for membership and coach trips can you pay by bank transfer?

For indoor meetings we are planning on trialing a card payment machine as most people have a debit or credit card.

Please do note the changes will be phased in but if you think this may be a problem for you, please do come for a chat with me at any of the meetings I'm at.

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.

Now, with the changes outlined above, would be a perfect time for someone to come forward and get involved in taking the role into a new phase before taking it over.

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.

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. Unfortunately, they 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? As I'd like to see all of Rochdale and District supporting wildlife, I'm very keen to support the initiative.



Additionally, the Field Nats are more and more being asked to help out with simple surveys of other pieces of land in and around Rochdale.

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 Jan Kidd at

kiddjanice@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you! Thank you. Jan

Can anyone volunteer to lead a Local Walk this summer, please?

Either Thursday 17 July or Thursday 21 August.

We wish to visit

- (i) Blackstone Edge, Littleborough and
- (ii) Ealees Valley and Whittaker near Hollingworth Lake.

The first person to volunteer can choose which venue they prefer! We would like you to decide the route and check the situation of the paths in advance.

We can offer suggestions re the Route if you wish.

Please let Sheila Simpson or Karen Cowley know if you can help.

Thanks.

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

July Newsletter : If you have something you would like included in the May 2025 newsletter, please send it to rfsnewsletter@gmail.com by **Friday 23rd June**

This month's poem is particularly relevant to our residential trip to Anglesey. Thank you Lucy.

Water Waves Lucy Entwisle

1. Blowing on a massive extent of water,
Little ripples frill out to bigger creases,
Undulating ever higher wider
And wave energy increases,

3. Close encountered storms create the Wind Wave,
Travelling gathering increasing massive force.
Running up the sands the breakers lave
The buffer now stops dead it's course.

2. Till the progress stops at farthest
shoreline,
When wave tops meet the sand in open air.
Lower level dragged by beach's incline.
Fills with glorious foam - aware! The glare!!

4. The Swell Wave rises distant thousands miles
Violent tempests, massive water undulating.
Then in long straight lines peace beguiles -
Arrives at last inward with gentle smiles -
The Swell Waves softly breaking.

5. Floats of screaming birds rising falling.
Loose yourself in the waves' splashing noise
Breaking the salted shore on a sunlit morning -
Barefoot paddling, dabbling - the mind enjoys
Yellow sand squeezing 'twix the toes
Mindful moments adorning...

Addendum : Refs

BBC Bitesize, Wikipedia, Britannica, Google AI overview, Hong Kong Observatory, Oxford Languages, NOAA

Wind transfers energy into the water

A wave then transmits energy from one wave to the next

It does not transmit mass

Water circulates within the wave

Wavelength: distance between two wave tops

Tides: rise and fall of sea levels caused by gravity pull of Moon and Sun

Tidal wave: large wave caused by earth movement under the sea

Local wind waves: generated from winds close to shore, short wavelength, high wave height

Swell waves: generated from winds far distant, longer wavelength, lower wave height

Seiche waves: in confined water like a lake, oscillate back and forth

Wave refraction: bending of waves as they meet the shoreline

Breaking waves: waves become unstable in shallow water and release energy as foam

Plunging breakers: wave tops fold over and collapse

Spilling breakers: wave rolls over the beach

Fetch: uninterrupted distance wind can travel over water in one direction

Lorna Lucy Doherty née Entwisle :Bacup 19th May 2025

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)

