



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

September 2025 Newsletter

Publicity Statement from the Steering Group September 2025

At the moment communicating events to members are published in multiple formats:

- The annual paper calendar
- The monthly newsletter
- The rolling programme
- The website and online calendar
- Notices at indoor meetings and coach file.
- Social media (Facebook and WhatsApp).
- Direct email to members

Any planned changes to the dates of events (as printed in the calendar) are communicated by ALL of the other methods

PROBLEMS:

- Events occasionally have to change at short notice, but the current system doesn't cope well when they do.
- The annual paper calendar is printed at least 5 months ahead and can be as much as 16 months out of date by the end of the year.
- The 3-month rolling programme which is sent out every month is not working well in its current form, as we are getting a few members missing changes of date.
- The newsletter has worked well for many years, but has become very time-consuming to produce. It contains a great deal of information and sometimes members fail to spot key changes to events.
- A few members can't / don't use either social media platform, or check the website

EFFECTS:

- Communication with members has not been ideal, which has been frustrating for everyone.
- The Publicity team has thought hard about how to improve things and has decided to centre our events communications on the online events calendar, rolling programme and website.

Therefore, after discussion at Steering Group, it has been decided that:

1. The rolling programme will be sent to members monthly with details of future events. It will incorporate web links to 'further details' which will be published on the website, and will highlight any changes to previous events communications.
2. The online events calendar will show all planned future events and all members will be encouraged to subscribe to it so RFNS events show automatically on their personal phone calendar if they use one. It will continue to be visible on the RFNS website too. It is a public Google calendar and members will be sent a link and a 'How to' guide. It is usually easy to set up, but Ian Short will provide tech support if needed.
3. The annual paper calendar will no longer highlight dates for events.
4. The monthly newsletter will be discontinued.
5. If necessary, we will produce ad hoc 'bulletins' where information from the Steering Group can be disseminated. It is NOT expected to come out very often.
6. We will produce an Annual Report around the time of the AGM, which will include reports from all the teams of activities during the year, and will also have photos. This will be the main way of keeping inactive members in touch with the Society's activities.

The last newsletter will be sent out in September with full details of these changes, which will be implemented immediately thereafter.

TREASURER ROLE

Your Society needs you!

If you are interested in taking on this role please come forward ASAP as we will need to make arrangements for transfer of the role.

Ruth is happy to be acting treasurer for the remainder of the year, but does not want to continue into 2026.



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.

September Dates

Thurs 11th Sept : Indoor Meeting : 'Windhover – a year among kestrels': Cutgate : 7.30pm

Sat 13th Sept : Car trip : NT Eaves Wood Nature Reserve, Silverdale : 10.30am

Thurs 18th Sept : Local Walk : Hopwood : 10.30am

Sat 27th Sept : Cons & Ed Event : Garden Slugs ID: Falinge Park : 10.30am – 12.30pm

ADVANCED NOTICE :

Sat 11th Oct : Coach trip : Clapham ***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/

RFNS Bulletin : If you have something you would like included in the new bulletin, please send it to rfnnewsletter@gmail.com

Indoor Meeting : Thurs 11th Sept : 'Windhover – a year among Kestrels' : Laurence Rose : Cutgate Baptist Church : 7.30pm

Laurence Rose is a leading wildlife conservationist who has worked in more than twenty countries to save species from extinction and to defend the most important places for wildlife. He retired from the RSPB in 2022 but continues to work as a volunteer, mainly as a writer and lecturer. His

books include *The Long Spring* (2018), *Framing Nature: conservation and culture* (2020) and *Leopard Moon Rising* (2021).

Laurence is also a 'resting' composer whose works have been performed in concerts, festivals and in natural spaces across the UK and parts of Europe. He leads workshops on mindful engagement with nature.



'Windhover' is the title of Laurence's next book which is due out in 2026. He devoted a year, 2023, to really getting to know one species well. He chose the kestrel – or rather, the kestrel chose him. In this talk, Laurence follows one family in particular, with its dramas, tragedies and triumphs. They, along with a supporting cast of other local wildlife confirms 'the extraordinary nature of ordinary nature'.

<https://laurenceroose.co.uk/>

Please note that the price for indoor events from September will become £4 for members and £5 for non-members. This will include refreshments.

Car trip : Sat 13th Sept : NT Eaves Wood Nature Reserve, Silverdale : 10.30am : Ian & Jenny Short

Please note that in September we are having a **car trip** rather than a coach trip because the roads in this area are too narrow for coaches. PLEASE CAR SHARE IF POSSIBLE.

National Trust Eaves Wood Nature Reserve, Park Rd, Silverdale, Carnforth LA5 0UQ

What3Words tree.computers.bridge

Grid reference SD 471 759

The Nature Reserve and Car Park are open 24 hours. There are NO toilets at Eaves Wood – the nearest are in Silverdale village (near the Gaskell Hall), or on the prom at Arnside.

The Car Park is free of charge, but only holds about 15 cars and can get very busy.

There is minimal alternative car parking nearby as the roads are quite narrow. **We repeat:**

PLEASE CAR SHARE IF POSSIBLE!

We intend to travel straight from home, picking up our passengers en route, aiming to reach Eaves Wood Car Park in time to set off on our walk at 10.30am. The journey takes about 1¼ hours, so we'll be setting off at about 9am.

Please let us know via the new **rfnsbookings@gmail.com** e-mail or the 'white' RFNS WhatsApp group if:

1. You are intending to join us – so we will know whether we've all arrived!
2. You can offer a lift (and say how many places you can offer)
3. You need a lift

If you can tell us before Sun 7th Sept, we will try to match those who need a lift with those offered and let you all know.

From Rochdale our usual route is north on the M6 to J35 (Carnforth). Left onto the A6070 then Right at the roundabout onto the A6, follow A6 for 2½ miles to Nineteen Acre Lane and turn Left (brown sign to Leighton Moss RSPB). Follow the Leighton Moss signs until you get there, but continue past the RSPB reserve to the junction. Turn Right past the station (Red Bridge Lane) then follow the road for about a mile, bear left at a minor junction and the Car Park is on the Right just past a bus shelter.

Eaves Wood is a protected woodland and Site of Special Scientific Interest in the Arnside and Silverdale National Landscape, known for its wide variety of plant species and the presence of red squirrels. The dominant trees are ash and hazel. Other tree species present include sessile oak, small leaved lime, wild service tree and Lancashire whitebeam. Yew is also abundant.

More than 250 species of fungi have been recorded here, hopefully some of them will be starting to show themselves by mid-September. Plants include yellow star of Bethlehem, yellow bird's nest and dark red helleborine. The herb spring cinquefoil has been recorded in woodland clearings.

The underlying geology at Eaves Wood is carboniferous limestone and there are some small areas of limestone pavement.

The site includes King Williams Hill, which features a monument known as the 'Pepperpot', and is an excellent viewpoint located just north of the village of Silverdale.

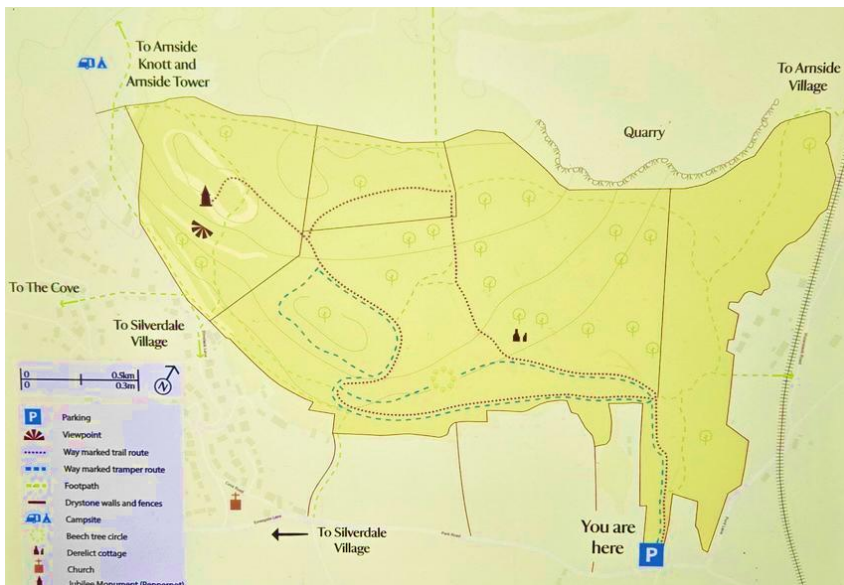
We intend to do the Eaves Wood circular walk, a waymarked trail of about 2¼ miles. Detailed information on the route is on the [National Trust website](#).

The route is flagged as moderate difficulty, it mostly follows a stone/gravel track, which can have muddy sections and the patches of limestone can be slippery when wet.

There are some short steepish sections, mainly up to the Pepperpot. No stiles.

There is also a waymarked 'Tramper route' that is shorter and much easier going.

If anyone is fancying a longer walk, we have also recce'd an optional extension route around Hawes Water, about another 2½ miles, with possibilities of waterfowl and reedbed species. There are a couple of stiles on this section.



There are no facilities at Eaves Wood, but the village of Arnside is only 10 minutes drive away (SD 456 788). We suggest heading there after our walk to use the loo, enjoy the refreshments (2 pubs, tea shops, chippy), and watch out for the shorebirds on the estuary.

Local Walk : Thurs 18th Sept : Hopwood : 10.30am : Pat & Maggie Culkin

On going to press, there are no details about this event.

Cons & Ed Event : Sat 27th Sept : "Garden Slug Identification for beginners": Falinge Park : 10.30am – 12.30pm

This is a free workshop, but please book with rfsbookings@gmail.com before September 20th so that we know how many of you to expect.

Back by popular demand, Gill Wrigley, Horticulturalist will help you get to grips with Slug Identification (and she hopes appreciation).

Falinge Park is less than a mile from Rochdale town centre. Vehicular access to the park is through the main entrance at the corner of Falinge Road and Sheriff Street and access to the building is through the green door to the right of the facade. Car parking and toilets are available, tea coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Bring your own garden slugs.

Do not leave collection until the night before as it will invariably be dry or windy or other unsuitable conditions. It is best to look for them after dark or if it is in the day, look in the places they hide out- under a compost bin lid, under stones, pots etc.

Slugs can all share the same box except Tiger Slug (aka Leopard slug) *Limax maximus* shown here. They are ferocious carnivore and you will end up with just them in your box if they are made to share...

Any plastic, lidded container can be used. You do not need air holes if they are just in there for a few days.

Put in some wetted egg box or other cardboard and some raw potato, carrot, lettuce, lichen, (no brassicas nor legumes).

Always wash your hands after handling slugs.



RFNS Anglesey Winter weekend Feb/Mar and Summer June week 2026 : Paul Whiting

Following our successful residential week in Anglesey we have booked a long winter weekend based at the same accommodation at Aberffraw which is excellent for our needs. Three separate flats with 11 bedrooms, cozy warm and well equipped.

During our stay we will visit coastal and inland sites looking for resident and wintering birds including Passerines, Waders, Wildfowl and Divers.

The weekend is booked for Friday the 27th February to Monday the 2nd March 2026 for 3 nights

We will probably eat out as a group on one night during our stay. The cost per person would depend on the number on trip but would be approximately £85 per person for full occupancy (bed only). All food and travel excluded.

Possibly take in site visits on route to and back from Anglesey There is currently 1 room available a Double on suite.

We have also re booked the same accommodation from Monday 8th June to Monday 15th June 2026. Currently there is 1 Double available at £181.10 per person again for full occupancy.

If anyone wants to know more about the weekend away or the summer break, please get in touch to discuss.

Paul 07518953740



Does this month's poem celebrate the RFNS Newsletter going out with a BANG?

The Big Bang **Lucy Entwisle**

1. The Big Bang - the Universe created!
13 billion years ago
From a dense hot state activated.
How much do we know?

2. The Cosmic Web in the Dark Ages -
Transparently drawn
From the evolution of the stages
Of The Cosmic Dawn.

3. Short lived Monster Stars exploding -
Die as supernovas -
Bequeath their heavy elements spreading
To form the future stars.

4. The Hubble and the James Web telescopes
Journey far and wide
And see the evidence of the past
Where truth cannot hide.

Addendum:

Refs: Google AI, Wiki, Brian Cox

The Universe: Includes all of space, matter, energy and time

The Big Bang event: Widely accepted as occurring 13.787 billion years ago. The Universe expanded from a dense hot state and continues to expand. It cools and evolves.

The Dark Ages: After the Universe became Transparent - 380,000 years after The Big Bang

The Cosmic Web: Large-scale structure of the Universe, network of interconnected filaments, sheets and voids where galaxies are located.

The Cosmic Dawn/Reionization Epoch: 100-400 million years after Big Bang - where earliest galaxies were formed.

Monster Stars/Population III Stars: Immense size possibly 100 times that of Sun, short life spans of a few million years. Contained only hydrogen and helium, burned fuel quickly, exploded as supernovae. Spread heavy elements into Universe.

Dark Matter: Hypothetical form of matter, does not interact with light, invisible, has gravitational effects on visible matter. Attracts normal matter.

Dark Energy: A mysterious force perhaps causing accelerated expansion of Universe.

Hubble Space Telescope: Launched 1990, in low Earth orbit.

James Web Space Telescope: Launched 2021, conducts infrared astronomy, can view objects old, distant and faint.

Vera C Reubin Telescope Earth-based, Chile: Huge field of view scans whole sky, mirror 8.5 meters across, squat, triple mirrored, largest astronomical camera, 3200 mega pixel, moves quickly around sky.