

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

We would like to draw your attention to several points of interest that were discussed at the last committee meeting on September 15th.

Arrangement for indoor and outdoor meetings is of concern as we want to continue to deliver items of interest to our members.

Outdoor Meetings.

We plan to have walks in smaller groups, 6 people in total (5 members plus the leader). C-19 safety measures in place in order to facilitate this process any members wishing to participate will have to register beforehand.

A first come first serve process will be in place, if there are more people registering it maybe possible for another group to be held on the same day. A waiting list for walks will operate if necessary.

The first outdoor meeting will be the 'Fungal Foray' at Hambleton Woods on 9th October at 10am.

Unfortunately, because Ben Devine has left the Wildlife Trust so he will not be leading this walk, instead, 2 leaders will take 2 groups out. Fungi as you all know are very different and difficult to ID, hopefully we will learn something on Ben's Webinar. Neither of the leaders is an expert in any way so it will be a walk of discovery and learning for all and also a great way to get to know people face to face, true social interaction.

Any members who know a little about fungi are desperately needed!

Please register for this walk with abiddle21@talktalk.net or call 01780762108



Indoor Meetings/ Webinars.



Don't panic! Webinars (generic name for an online presentation) are even easier than attending an outdoor meeting as one doesn't have to move from your home. Unfortunately what these don't deliver is the face to face contact.

All members will be sent a link to join the RNHS webinars. All one has to do is to click on that link and you will be allowed in to view the presentation. The host, usually Linda Biddle, will open the link at 7pm for a 7.30 start. A link will be sent for each webinar / indoor meeting. There should be opportunity to ask questions via the host on the 'chat' facility

The first Webinar of the season will be the talk by Ben Devine about Fungi. October 6th 7.30 pm - 9.30pm.

Website update.

Peter Scott and Margaret Conner have a particular interest in managing the Website and have suggested it needs an overhaul. Could members please take a look at it and let Peter or Margaret know if you would like to see anything added or altered. Margaret is hoping to get a system through which members can pay online, which in view of the present situation, where a number of members pay by cheque at the indoor meetings, would be preferable.

Thank you.



Please Pre Order your RNHS Calendars.

Christmas is approaching and who knows what the rules will be by then.

We are very keen to know who would like a calendar for 2021. We can then go ahead and get a quote and price accordingly. Thank you to those of you who have already responded, we nearly have enough pre orders to make printing viable. They do make lovely Christmas presents. We can arrange for them to be posted, hand delivered or collected.

An example of some of the photos submitted for the calendar are reproduced throughout this bulletin.

Please pre order by contacting Margaret Conner at mjconner100@gmail.com

Remember the questionnaire we sent out with the last Fieldfare asking for comments and suggestions about how the Society should move forward?

John Rogers reports that he didn't get any responses at all which was somewhat disappointing for the committee. However Peter Scott has received some positive feedback about all the work that the committee has been doing, it is heartening to know that we are doing something right and these kind comments are truly appreciated.

Thank you



Virtual Birdfair - many of the lectures and talks are still available to view. I recommend listening to 'State of the Earth' Next Generation which was aired on Sunday 23rd August 2020 at 12.30 pm

Members of the month.

Elizabeth Northen: Uppingham

Joined RNHS in 1968. Elizabeth was an amazing hard-worker for us in the early days of the Society:

Elizabeth was a school teacher, and when the Society left their indoor venue (Oakham VCVC), in 1968, she was instrumental in negotiations with her school (Burley Road C of E school), Oakham, and organised the move to their hall, for the indoor meetings; which was to last many years, until we again moved to the present venue, VAR Conference Centre.

Miss Northen held the following posts: during the 1970s (Programme Secretary), and (Annual Report proof reader), in the 1980s. Committee member: team member of the Egleton Church Project, and a regular, with the now defunct Clipsham Quarry Survey Group.

In addition to all that: was very involved in providing the Cheese and Wine, and refreshments at the many social occasions, held by the RNHS, during this era; especially being a member of the editorial team, who produced the 25th Anniversary book. Elizabeth is still a member.

The photograph was taken at Lyndon reserve 27.09.1986. RNHS donated a seat as part of the 21st anniversary celebrations. Elizabeth is 5th from the left (sitting). The event was reported in the Rutland Times.



Valerie and Archie Hemsley. Uppingham

Archie and Val joined the RNHS in circa 1974. They were regulars at all the indoor meetings, and many of the outdoor events.

At that period they owned a cottage at: Burnham Overy Staith, Norfolk. One of the Society's outdoor field trips, was to the Norfolk Coast, for the day. After a mornings walk along the sea-shore and sand-dunes, Archie and Val invited us in to their cottage; where a convivial afternoon, and snacks were enjoyed immensely. They were still attending the RNHS events until well in to 2007.

They have continued their membership with the Society up to this day!



RNHS Field Meeting Horn Mill Exton 12.08.2012. Val Hemsley, 5th from the left, holding her hat. Archie Hemsley, behind Val, wearing hat.

Phil Rudkin.

Reflections on the past and hope for the future.

During these past few months we have all heard how important the natural world is to the human race. Planet earth is one huge ecosystem and the knowledge about how it is all interconnected increases everyday. People who have never given a thought to 'nature' are becoming aware of its importance to our survival. Reporting in all forms of media is helping with this awareness. And then there is David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg.

Many of us have been committed to nature for as long as we can remember and probably 'banging on' about it's destruction. Realising that we are not alone and now will be joined by young enthusiastic and committed people to take over the reins is reassuring.



Below is the first ever RNHS newsletter which I hope will be of interest.

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

News Letter No. 1.

February, 1965

Dear Mr Ellis

Enclosed with this news letter you will find the official membership form for joining the Society. Space has been provided on this form for you to indicate the particular branch or branches of Natural History that you are interested in. Please complete this and return to me with your subscription as soon as possible. Don't forget to put your FULL postal address.

Two sub divisions of the Society have been formed, one for Botany and the other for Ornithology. A Recorder has also been appointed for each division.

The success of a society of this nature is largely dependent on the observations and reports of its members. If the reports are regular we can keep abreast of events and by our news letter keep the members informed of what's been seen or found in the County. So keep your diary's up to date and remember it is far better to have regular monthly reports than one or two per year. Your reports should be sent to the Recorders:-

BOTANY : Mr. H. Turner 1 Highfield Close, Empingham Oakham.

ORNITHOLOGY : Mr. J.R. Hunter, 18 Barleythorpe Road, Oakham.

Members who are making plant records, Mr Turner would be grateful if you would submit the information in the following way:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
FRIMROSE, P. Vulgaris (L) April 5th	Empingham	Spinney Wood - one small clump

For the ornithologists we have two schemes outlined with which, we hope they will help - nothing too ambitious to start with. We are hoping to get a supply of Nest Record Cards from the British Trust for Ornithology. These are quite easy to complete and provide valuable information to the B.T.O. The information will also be put into our own records. Mr. S. Dear 7 Woodland View Oakham, Rutland to whom, requests for cards should be sent, is going to organise this scheme for us.

With this letter you will find a Spring Migrant Chart concerning the more common migrants. This form is experimental and we may find it needs some slight amendment in the light of experience. We hope as many members as possible will take part in this scheme which when compared year by year should give us some useful information.

FUTURE PROGRAMME:

As far as possible meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month.

Thursday 4th March - 8.0 p.m. Vale of Catmose Village College. Mr. G.K. Messenger of Uppingham School will talk on the County Flora.

Saturday 10th April - An afternoon visit to the Wildfowl Trust, Peakirk near Peterborough.

Thursday 6th May - An evening visit to the Eye Brook Reservoir.

Thursday 3rd June - A walk, to commence at Durley Fishponds.

P.T.O.

For those Field Outings involving the use of transport there will, of course, be a charge. Members using their own transport may like to offer a lift to some of the others should there be insufficient numbers to warrant the hire of a ~~seedy~~ coach.

To give some idea of the number of members interested in these outings would you please complete the tear off portion at the end of this letter and return to the Secretary as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

BOTANY: "The Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers" by McClintock and Fitter published by Collins.
"Flora of the British Isles" by Clapham, Tutin and Warburg, published by Cambridge Press
(an essential for all serious botanists)

ORNITHOLOGY: "The Field Guide to the Birds of Europe" by Peterson, Mountford and Hollom, published by Collins at 25/-
(again, essential for all bird watchers)

"The Oxford Book of Birds" by Bruce Campbell - published by the Oxford University Press at 35/-.

I would like to go on the following Field Outings:-

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I shall require transport/I do not require transport/I could take
.....(number) passengers.

Name.....

Address.....

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