

RNHS

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2023

All events are as detailed and as correct as possible at time of publication but can be subject to change at short notice so please check with up-to-date information in Fieldfare or on the website.

Indoor meetings are now taking place at the LRWT Volunteer training Centre (VTC), between October and April on the first Tuesday of the month between 7.30 – 9.30pm. If there are government changes to rules, meetings may also be held via zoom if appropriate and members will receive a link via email.

For all indoor and outdoor meetings please book your place with Jeff Wilcox-Smith who will give more detailed information. Contact details at the foot of the programme.

Please note: Outdoor events are likely to be on rough or muddy ground so be sure to wear suitable footwear and clothing and carry drinks and sun cream etc. to suit weather conditions. Indoor meetings are in **green**. Outdoor meetings in **purple**.

Saturday 7th January, 10.00am. Join Linda and Anthony Biddle for an invigorating New Year stroll at Lyndon.
Meet: Lyndon Reserve Centre car park. LE15 8RN. A reserve centre fee may apply. Coffee and cake afterwards!

Tuesday 10th January, 7.30pm. Extremadura and it's Wildlife Wonders with John Tinning.
John takes us on a pictorial adventure through one of his favorite western Spanish regions, bordering on Portugal, with it's mountains, forests, lakes, reserves and diverse wildlife.

Tuesday 7th February, 7.30pm. Peaks, parasites and a few penguins with Sarah Bedford (Conservation officer at LRWT). Sarah talks us through landscapes, wildlife and challenges of a three year journey from Alaska to Patagonia by bicycle.

Saturday 11th February, 10.00am. A trip to Frampton Marsh with Peter Scott.
Frampton Marsh in Lincolnshire, provides a close view of the abundant birdlife of the Wash, one of Europe's most special places for wildlife. **Meet:** RSPB Frampton Marsh, Roads Farmhouse, Frampton Roads, Frampton, Boston, Lincs PE20 1AY. Grid ref: TF356 392. Admin fee for non-RSPB members.

Tuesday 7th March, 7.30pm. RNHS Annual General Meeting followed by "Nearby Nature." - a talk by our chairman **Linda Biddle**.

Saturday 11th March, 10.00am. A walk at the Rutland Water Egleton Reserve with Rutland Water Nature Reserve Officer, Luke Nelson. The main gateway to the larger part of the reserve. Discover a huge variety of birds and wildlife. **Meet:** Egleton Reserve Car park LE15 8BT. Grid ref: SK879 071. There is a reserve entrance fee.

Tuesday 4th April, 7.30pm. An evening with Joe Stanley of The Allerton Trust. Joe is head of training and partnerships at The Allerton Project and is passionate in developing more sustainable and resilient farming systems. Should be a lively and informative evening.

Sunday 23rd April, 10.00am. A walk in Launde Big wood and SSSI, led by Andy Neilson LRWT Conservation officer. One of the largest and most important semi-natural ancient woodlands in the East Midlands. Grid ref: SK788 035.

Saturday 6th May. Dawn Chorus with Linda and Anthony Biddle. Early. If you have yet to hear the sound of sheer joy in nature, tick this one off your bucket list! For details of where and when to meet, contact details at foot of the programme.

Sunday 14th May, 10.00am. A survey of Hebe's wood. This is a woodland restoration project where trees, insects and woodland plants are reclaiming this ancient area. **Meet:** Outside The Blue Ball pub, Braunston. LE15 8QS Grid ref: SK833 066.

Thursday 8th June, 5.30pm. An evening at Collyweston Quarries Nature Reserve. "The Deeps". This is one of the reserves in the John Clare Living Landscapes -an old quarry now transformed into a wildflower haven. **Meet:** On the way out of Collyweston towards Stamford, look for Deepside on the left, and a long lay-by on the right. Park in the lay-by. Grid ref: TF005 037. Postcode: PE9 3NA.

Saturday 17th June, 10.30am. A visit to Merry's meadow with Jenny Harris. One of the most diverse and flower rich grasslands in Rutland, **Meet:** Park near T-junction opposite Great Lane, Greetham. Grid ref: SK928 155. Postcode: LE15 7NG. Reserve is Grid ref: SK937 157 some distance away from parking.

Sunday 2nd July 2.30pm. Stonesby Quarry led by Jenny Harris. This little reserve hosts the biggest colony of Pyramidal orchids in our two counties. It is part of a worked out Quarry and it's flora was noted of interest as long ago as 1933. Entrance is to the east of Waltham-on-the-Wolds along Bescaby lane. Postcode: LE14 4AB. Grid ref: SK810 253.

Saturday 5th August. 10.30am and 2.00pm. Ketton Quarry Family day. Bugs, butterflies and flowers!. A day of discovery and learning for the whole family. Park and meet in the Scout Hut Car park, Pitt Lane, Ketton. PE9 3SZ. Grid ref: SK979 053.

Friday 8th September. 7.30pm. Ketton Bat walk with Jenny Harris, bat care co-ordinator with Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group. Meet: At Aldgate (Map ref: SK983 042) and park on either side of the road without blocking gateways. Postcode: PE9 3TD.

Tuesday 3rd October. 7.30pm. The Biking birder - Adventures of a Green Birder with Gary Prescott a retired school teacher with a passion for nature. Will be a fascinating evening!

Sunday 29th October. 10.00am. Fungi walk around Barnsdale woods with Tim Sexton, Species and recording officer for Rutland Water Nature Reserve. Meet: Barnsdale car park LE15 8AB. Grid ref: SK904 088. Car parking fee payable.

Tuesday 7th November. 7.30pm. Bird ringing and research with former LRWT reserve officer Luke Nelson. Luke will be returning to present a talk on his two specialist subjects - bird ringing and Long-tailed tits. A chance to hear first-hand about his fascinating and important long-term study at The University of Sheffield.

Tuesday 5th December 7.30pm. Members and recorders Meeting. Hear all about the highlights of the year from our recorders with photographs and videos. Christmas drinks and nibbles!.

Contact details for indoor and Outdoor events:

L. Biddle. Email: abiddle21@talktalk.net. Mobile: 07749636919. (Dawn chorus only)

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