

RNHS

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2026

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 take place at the LRWT Volunteer training Centre (VTC), between October and April on the first Tuesday of the month between 7.30 – 9.30pm. **Note: April and November meetings are in the morning.**

With thanks to Donnie and Steve for providing refreshments at our indoor meetings.

For all outdoor meetings please book your place with the person who will be leading the event. Their phone number/email will be next to the event taking place. If the weather is bad on the day, you will need to ring the lead member in case the meeting needs to be cancelled.

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. Don't forget your walk cards!

Evening/morning Indoor meetings are in **green**. Outdoor meetings in **purple**.

Sunday January 25th, 10.00am. Winter walk at Eyebrook reservoir. Lead: Craig Howat (07926726055) or Carolyn Baxter (07729298125). Bring your binoculars to see winter wildfowl and maybe even an otter! Meet: in car park at bottom of Stoke Dry hill. Grid ref: SP852963. WTW fell.grandest.smiles.

Tuesday 3rd February, 7.30pm. Ann Gleave from the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group will be giving a talk on one of our most difficult group of mammals to spot and the only mammal that can fly.

Tuesday 3rd March, 7.30pm. RNHS Annual General Meeting followed by an illustrated talk by Peter Scott.

Saturday 7th March. 9.30am - 12.30pm. Get to know your wildfowl at our own special local reserve with our own bird expert **Terry Mitcham**. Contact: L Biddle (07749636919). **Meet:** At Egleton birdwatching centre car park SK879071. WTW spurned.entitle.shorthand. There is a permit charge for non LRWT members.

Thursday morning 16th April, 10am. Renowned underwater photographer Jack Perks whose work has been on **Springwatch** and other notable wildlife programmes will present a talk on **"Rivers in Crisis"**.

Saturday 18th April. Come along on a woodland walk in Hebe's wood, looking for early spring flowers and listen to the sounds of the newly arrived migrant songbirds. **Meet:** From Braunston village, go down Wood lane and continue down bridle track to gate at the end. Grid ref: SK8278205687. WTW: deploying.chair.riot. Contact Carolyn or Linda (mobile as above)

Saturday 2nd May. Dawn Chorus with Linda and Anthony Biddle. For details of where and what time to meet, please book with Linda. (07749636919 or 01780762108)

Saturday 16th May, 10.30am. LRWT reserve Merry's meadows. A walk in memory of Jenny Harris's favourite reserve to see the beautiful Green-winged orchids and more delightful spring flowers. Lead by LRWT officer Sarah Bedford or Juliette Calaco-Fournieres. Contact L. Biddle (as above). **Meet:** Grid ref: SK937157. WTW: rewriting.

hardens.ground

Tuesday 16th June. 10.30am. Seaton Coronation Meadows SSSI. We will be joining **Andrew Kearsy** from Plantlife to investigate the impressive number of plant species to be found on this little 11ha. nature reserve. **Meet:** Grid ref: SP 913979. WTW: flushes.sandbags.flamingo. **There is limited parking along the roadside so please car share if you can. Contact: Linda (see above).**

Saturday 20th June, 11.00am. LRWT Wymondham Rough reserve. Led by LRWT officer Sarah Bedford or Juliette Calaco-Fournieres. A slightly later start to see the butterflies. **Meet:** Grid ref: SK831174. WTW: reclaimed.behaving.digit.. **Contact Linda (See below).**

Saturday 18th July. Ospreys at Lyndon centre. Grid ref: SK894055. WTW: lance.full.astounded.

Saturday 1st August, 10.30am. Dragonflies and Damselflies at RWNR Eggleton bird watching centre. Led by Ian Merrill, VC55 Dragonfly recorder. Contact L. Biddle. (See below).

Saturday 12th September. , 7.00pm. Evening bat walk at Ketton with Ann Gleave of Leicestershire and Rutland Bat group. Meet: Aldgate Ketton. Grid ref: SK983042. WTW: record.pavement.brisk. Park either side of the road without blocking the gateway. **Contact L. Biddle. (Below)**

Tuesday 6th October, 7.30pm. Farming for wildlife. Nicholas Watts is well known for his dedication to nature-friendly farming over many years. His work at Vine House Farm has led to a significant increase in the number of small farmland birds. Join him as he shares his insights on how farming and wildlife can thrive together.

Saturday 17th October. Fungi walk with RNHS fungi recorder Kate Fortune Jones. Place is yet to be decided. The date is subject to confirmation and may change to Saturday 24th October. Please look on website nearer the time for date and location details.

Friday 6th November. 10.30am. Meet for A Morning talk with Ian Merrill, VC 55 Dragonfly recorder. Ian will follow up on his earlier visit with a talk on Dragonflies and Damselflies.

Saturday 7th November, 10am. Fungi walk with Tim Sexton. Barnsdale. Meet: Park in car park near entrance to the wood. Grid ref: SK911087. WTW: decanter.motivates.herbs.

Tuesday 1st December 7.30pm. Members and recorders Meeting. A Christmas get together with short talks from members and recorders. Come along for nibbles and drinks!

Contact details for indoor and Outdoor events:

For all event bookings and queries, please see telephone number next to outdoor event taking place or contact Linda on 07749636919/01780762108 or Carolyn on 07729298125 especially if bad weather threatens.