

# RNHS

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2025

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. Meetings may also be held via zoom if appropriate and members will receive a link via email.

**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.

Indoor meetings are in **green**. Outdoor meetings in **purple**.

**Tuesday 4th February, 7.30pm. “Garden Ponds and how to make them more wildlife friendly” by Jack Perks.**

Jack is a first-class professional underwater photographer, specializing in fish, amphibians and reptiles and has appeared in many wildlife and angling programmes. He is well placed to give us some good advice on turning our ponds into a freshwater paradise.

**Saturday 15th February. 10.00am. Bird watching at Egleton with Craig Howat ( 07926726055).** There is no other place to be at this time of year if you want to see wintering wildfowl. You may even spot a rarity or two or even an otter in one of the lagoons. Don't forget your binoculars! **Meet: In the Egleton reserve car park. SK878 072.** There is a charge unless you have an Annual permit.

**Tuesday 4th March, 7.30pm. Annual General Meeting followed by a talk “Gardening for Wildlife”. by Craig Howat.** This will be a nice follow-up to the February talk by Jack Perks if you are starting to think about improving your garden for wildlife this spring.

**Saturday 8th March. 9.30am - 12.30pm. Fort Henry at Exton with RNHS bird recorder Terry Mitcham. (01780 751268).** Apart from the wonderful views, these ancient fishponds attract interesting winter waterfowl. **Meet:** by the lakes at Fort Henry. Plenty of parking on the verges at Grid ref: SK948 119. Best access is along estate road from Exton village, entering Home Farm (SK924 114) and keeping right, following road past Tunneley wood and on to Fort Henry.

**Tuesday 1st April, 7.30pm. “Swift conservation in Leicestershire and Rutland”. A “How to.. “ by Jools Partridge.** Jools has worked as a wildlife officer specializing in protected species for Leicestershire County Council and is also a committee member for the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group.

**Saturday 26th April, 10.00am. Pasque flowers at “Hills and holes” Barnack NNR. Led by John Rodgers (01572 757258).** Pasque flowers are now a rare sight in the UK so we are lucky to be able to see masses of these lovely purple flowers just over the border near Stamford. **Meet:** Park in the main car park off Wittering road. Nearest postcode: PE9 3EQ. **Grid ref: TF073 047.**

**Saturday 3rd May. Dawn Chorus with Linda and Anthony Biddle.** Like the winter starling murmurations, the springtime dawn chorus every year is a wonderful natural event not to be missed. For details of where and what time to meet, please book with Linda. (07749636919 or 01780762108)

**Saturday 17th May, 10.30am. Green-winged orchids at Cribbs Meadow SSSI with ecologist Jane Southey.** This LRWT reserve is small, but is not short of a lovely mosaic of diverse habitats with plenty to see at this time of the year. (Queries Carolyn 07729298125) **Meet:** Situated 5km east of Wymondham at **Grid ref: SK901 187.** Park on the right-hand verge just past the junction on Fosse lane. Nearest postcode LE15 7RQ.

**Wednesday 4th June, 7pm - 9pm. An evening walk at Beaumont Chase farm with hosts Joe and Mary Nourish. (07976315793).** Situated on a hillside overlooking the beautiful Eyebrook valley, this modern farm is managed by our hosts with the needs of wildlife in mind. **Meet: Grid ref: SP846 988.** (B664 between Uppingham and Stockerston). **Note:** There may be steep inclines and uneven pathways.

**Saturday 21st June, 10.00am. Visit to Glapthorn Cow Pastures** with our experienced butterfly photographer **Dave Needham. (01780 762559).** With a mix of blackthorn scrub and mature woodland for all kinds of wildlife, this SSSI reserve is one of the few places in the country to find the Black hairstreak butterfly. **Meet: Grid ref: TL005 902. Nearest postcode PE8 5BH.** Access is via entrance from Glapthorn to Benefield road. Park down lane opposite entrance to wood.

**Saturday 9th August, 10.30am and 2.00pm. Ketton Quarry Family bug hunt. Queries Carolyn (07729298125)** A day of fun and discovery for the whole family. Discover the flowers, bugs, beetles and butterflies in this amazingly biodiverse quarry. **Park and meet:** in the Scout Hut Car park, Pitt Lane, Ketton. PE9 3SZ. **Grid ref: SK979 053.**

**Saturday 13th September. 10.30am. RSPB reserve Frampton Marsh with Craig Howat. (07926726055)** A popular RNHS outing at this time of year, and no wonder. Set against the shore of The Wash, this is the UK's most important estuary, teeming with wildlife and waterfowl. **Meet:** Roads Farmhouse, Frampton Roads, Boston, Lincs. PE20 1AY. **Grid ref: TF357 390.** Entrance is free. Car park fee £5.00.

**Tuesday 7th October. 7.30pm. "The Wildlife and Birds of Poland".** Join **Richard Bashford** from Naturetrek for a spectacular tour of Poland's world famous Biebrza National Park Marshes - home to Great Snipe and where the fields and meadows are home to the iconic Corncrakes and Cranes.

**Saturday in October. (Date and time and meeting place TBD). A tree and fungi safari at Burghley deer park** with our fungi recorder **Kate Fortune Jones** and head forester **Peter Glassey. (07929895021.)** See website nearer the time.

**Tuesday 4th November. 7.30pm. We welcome back Henry Stanier with an update on the Great Fen Project.** As "one of the most important restoration projects in Europe" we have been following the progress of this long-term project to link two National Nature reserves - Woodwalton fen with Holme fen.

**Saturday 22nd November. Deeping lakes. 10.00am. (Lead to be decided).** A quiet little wetland SSSI Nature reserve with lakes and pools, noted for its wildfowl and waterbird communities. **Meet:** Postcode PE6 8RJ will take you to a bend on the B1166 . At the apex of the bend is a gravel road with speed bumps. Follow until Car park on right. **Grid ref: TF184 079.**

**Tuesday 2nd December 7.30pm. Members and recorders Meeting.** Our popular food and festivities evening with special highlights of the year from our recorders and members. This evening often gets added to as the year progresses!

**Contact details for indoor and Outdoor events:**

**For all event queries please see telephone number next to event taking place or look on the Contacts page on the back of Fieldfare.**