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## JULY 2016

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 11am to 12.30pm ANTARCTICA.** A record of past climate. Almost three miles of ice buries most of Antarctica, cloaking a continent half as large again as the United States. We will explore whether Antarctica's climate past can offer clues to what may happen in the future. **MET**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday RUSHMERE TO WORKBRIDGE** has proved to be a popular walk especially with the temptation of tea and cake at the café! Meet for bus SC 5 at 1.13pm. **SW**

**5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm THE LIVING LAKE (PART 1):** Harrold Lake is a flooded former gravel pit. In this and the next meeting, Mike Gibson and Mike Holmes will guide us in looking at water samples from different parts of the lake to assess the effects of different local environments on the water's inhabitants. **MIC**

**6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm STORTON'S PITS NATURE RESERVE.** Duston, Northampton. NN5 5QA. Meet in the small car park just at the top of the lane from Sixfields Stadium to Sixfields Lake at 7.30pm. A short stroll, mostly level but some steps, past lakes and pools rich with wildlife, with views to the town skyline. May be muddy if it has recently rained. **PHO**

**9<sup>th</sup> Saturday** A favourite is the village of **CRICK** where we can walk beside the canal and across the fields. Lunch available at the local inn. Meet for bus SC 96 at 10.39am. **SW**

**11<sup>th</sup> Monday 7.30pm OBSERVING PLANETARY NEBULAE** by Owen Brazell. We welcome one of the Country's most experienced visual observers of the Deep-Sky to talk on Planetary Nebulae: fascinating and often beautiful objects. Owen Brazell is Editor of the Deep-Sky Observer journal and a regular columnist in Astronomy Now magazine. This should be a very interesting evening. Guests are very welcome. **AST**

**13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.30am-2.30pm OPEN HOUSE** The Humfrey rooms will be open for members and guests to chat and to study the literature and exhibits. Tea, coffee, and biscuits available.

**13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2.30pm EASTERN SCOTLAND.** The presenter visits the industries of the coast and also looks at the Bell Rock Lighthouse. **ARC/HIS**

**14<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm "AN ABERRANT BOTANIST IN CANAIMA".** An illustrated presentation by Seán Karley on a visit to Venezuela, with a visit to *Kerepakupai Vená*, the Angel Falls; 3212 feet high; higher than Scafell Pike. **GEN**

**16<sup>th</sup> Saturday COLD BRAYFIELD TO NEWTON BLOSSOMVILLE** is an ideal spot for a summer walk. Meet for bus SC 41 at 1.35pm. Refreshments available. **SW**

**19<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm THE LIVING LAKE (PART 2):** A further look at samples from different parts of Harrold Lake to assess the effects of different local environments on the water's inhabitants. By Mike Gibson and Mike Holmes. **MIC**

**20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm BRIXWORTH COUNTRY PARK.** Signposted off the A508 north of Northampton, Use the main car park by the visitor centre, £3 charge, including blue badge holders. Meet at 7.30pm in front of the visitor centre. A walk through woodland and grassland on made up paths but with some slopes, overlooking the reservoir. **PHO**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** Our second canal side visit will be to **STOKE BRUERNE**. Meet for UNO bus 86 at 11.01am. Bring a picnic or make use of the refreshments offered at the venue. **SW**

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am WOODWALTON FEN NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE** is one of the last fragments of ancient fen to survive in East Anglia. It is a National Nature Reserve, and is managed by Natural England. Grid Ref. TL234; 848. Post code. PE26 2RS From Whittlesey take the B1040 South 7 ½ miles (12 Km) straight road. After Ramsey Heights village turn right (West) where the B1040 bends left. Follow this road for 1 mile (1.5 Km). It degenerates! At end turn right and park carefully near the Great Raveley Drain. Seán Karley Tel. 01933 – 225397; Mobile:- 07968898375 e-mail:- [seankarley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:seankarley@tiscali.co.uk) & Roger Warren Mobile:- 07891062430 Bring a picnic. No facilities. Wetland site. **BOT**

**25<sup>th</sup> Monday 7.30pm TELESCOPIC TOPICS.** These are our members' meetings for which participation is invited. It's a forum to discuss new observations, equipment and techniques. If you've got any astronomical problems bring them along for some help. We'll try to present some themed observing inspiration and if the weather's helpful do a little practical urban astronomy too, so bring your binoculars and telescopes. Guests are very welcome. **AST**

**28<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm** Lecture to be announced. **ZOO/ORTH**

**30<sup>th</sup> Saturday** An extended route around **TURVEY** is planned for today's walk. Meet for bus SC41 at 1.35pm. Refreshments available in the village. **SW**

**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday 12.00 LYVEDEN NEW BIELD.** Photographic section outing. A National Trust property, Signposted off the A6116 near Brigstock, east of Corby, PE8 5AT. Ample free parking near the property. Entrance cost £6.50. NT members free. Meet outside the shop / ticket office at midday for a picnic then explore the grounds. A photogenic incomplete Elizabethan Lodge surrounded by wild flower meadows and a moated garden (sheep and ducks, not flowers!). No hard paths but firm grassland rides. Small shop, café and toilets. **PHO**

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## AUGUST 2016

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm PARASITES (PART 1):** Animal parasites are a large and varied group of creatures with a wide variety of life cycles and ways of interacting with their hosts. Part 1 will be an introductory talk by Mike Gibson followed by examination of slides from the society's collection. **MIC**

**6<sup>th</sup> Saturday 11am to 12.30pm. TYPHOON.** Not the aeroplane but the weather phenomena, which is the most destructive? It is three years since Typhoon Haiyan, we will hear about this storm, how it formed, the consequences and what has been learned. **MET**

**6<sup>th</sup> Saturday** A visit to **ROTHWELL** is requested! Meet for bus SC X4 at 10.50am. Lunch available in the town. **SW**

**6<sup>th</sup> Saturday 11am COOPER'S HILL NATURE RESERVE;** Ampthill; Beds Bedfordshire's largest remaining area of heathland. The reserve contains large areas of heather growing together with birch and oak trees, plus gorse and broom scrub. Grid Ref. TL 027; 381 Post code. MK45 2HX From A507 travelling east from Woburn turn left onto B530

towards Ampthill town centre. After 150m, park in lay-by opposite the football club. Walk down track past the rugby club for 200m to reserve. Seán Karley Tel. 01933 – 225397; Mobile:- 07968898375 e-mail:- [seankarley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:seankarley@tiscali.co.uk) & Roger Warren: 07891062430 Bring a picnic. No facilities. **BOT**

**8<sup>th</sup> Monday 7.30pm KEW OBSERVATORY** by Dr Lee Macdonald. Kew Observatory is close to the River Thames in the Old Deer Park at Richmond in Surrey. It has played an important part in the development of British astronomy over several centuries. Dr Lee Macdonald is Deputy Director of the BAA Historical Section and an expert on Kew's history. Our first historical meeting of the year, and certainly not one to miss! Guests are very welcome. **AST**

**10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.30am-2.30pm OPEN HOUSE** The Humfrey rooms will be open for members and guests to chat and to study the literature and exhibits. Tea, coffee, and biscuits available.

**10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2.30pm NORTH EAST ENGLAND.** A visit to Lindisfarne to visit the cradle of Christianity. A house is rebuilt on a site which is 10.000 years old. **ARC/HIS**

**10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm DELAPRE ABBEY PARK.** Meet in the car park (free) next to the Abbey at 7.30pm. Entrance off A508, London Road, Northampton. A walk along variable paths through woodland to the lake. **PHO**

**11<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm 1960s TRANSPORT MISCELLANY** A talk featuring an entertaining and nostalgic look at air, rail and bus transport in the early 1960s and a typical days work for an air hostess at London airport... including an interesting presentation on a day in the life of the city from a transport perspective. **GEN**

**12<sup>th</sup> Friday THE PERSEIDS.** As we all know, August in the UK is famous for its warmth and clear skies, so perfect for our annual meteor watch: the Perseids. We plan to gather at Spratton Crossing again this year at 20:30. The Moon is brighter this year, but that presents the chance of some lunar and planetary observing early in the evening. Please check our noticeboard, website, @NorthantsAstro and <https://www.facebook.com/nhnsastro> for details. If the weather isn't kind things might change. **AST**

**13<sup>th</sup> Saturday** A trip to **TOWCESTER** for a stroll through the water meadows and to visit the Flower Festival in the Church. There is also the option of calling in at Blisworth Canal Festival on the way home! Meet for bus SC 88 at 11.19am. Refreshments available at either venue or take a picnic. **SW**

**16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm PARASITES (PART 2):** Mike Gibson will guide us through the dissection of an earthworm to isolate parasites from the seminal vesicles. Bring a stereo microscope and dissection kit if you have one (or use ours). **MIC**

**20<sup>th</sup> Saturday DAVENTRY COUNTRY PARK** is this week's choice. Meet bus SC D2 at 11.14am. Picnic or park café. **SW**

**24<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm BECKETTS PARK NORTHAMPTON** Meet by the tennis courts at 7.30pm. Nearest parking is St Johns Multi-storey car park (£1 evening charge). A walk along the river bank etc, made up paths. **PHO**

**25<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2.30pm** Lecture to be announced. **ZOO/ORTH**

**27<sup>th</sup> Saturday BRADLAUGH FIELDS** is this Saturday's 'off-road' location! Meet for bus SC 7 at 1.36pm. A cuppa at the supermarket ends the day and this month's walks! **SW**