
MARCH 2017

- 1st Wednesday 8.00pm CORNWALL CUP** A natural history competition for up to three projected images per round. Round 3 of 3. **PHO**
- 2nd Thursday 2.30pm. COMMON FLOWERS; MORE COMMON FLOWERS.** Two short illustrated talks by Seán Karley looking at some of our ordinary everyday flora. We can spend so much time hunting for rarities that we can forget the beauty of the things we see under our noses. **BOT**
- 4th Saturday 11:00am. WEATHER ON OTHER WORLDS.** Other worlds can be very different to Earth. What do we know about the weather on other Worlds and what can we imagine? **MET**
- 4th Saturday** It is time to visit the **DUSTON** annual **FLOWER FESTIVAL** Meet for bus SC 9A at 1.19pm. Refreshments at the Church Centre. **SW**
- 7th Tuesday 7.30pm PLANT STRUCTURE & FUNCTION: CORMS & BULBS (PART II)** by Mike Asquith. A look at fresh Corms and Bulbs: Bring your own samples and explore for yourself these interesting and important structures. Mike will demonstrate how to make and stain temporary slides of these often overlooked items. **MIC**
- 8th Wednesday 10.30am-2.30pm OPEN HOUSE** The Humfrey rooms will be open for members and guests to chat and study the literature and exhibits. Tea and coffee available.
- 8th Wednesday 2.30pm** A trip round **CROMER** and North Norfolk and the forties weekend in **SHERINGHAM** by Cyril Sampson. **ARC/HIS**
- 8th Wednesday 8.00pm PAINTING WITH LIGHT** by Matthew Hancox. Amongst his night-time photography Matt has produced some amazing images using such materials as wire wool and pixel sticks. This evening he shows us some of the results made by painting with light. **PHO**
- 9th Thursday 2.30pm CHILDHOOD IN THE 1950s.** A nostalgic presentation and display by Polly Feeley of music and memories from a 1950s childhood. **GEN**
- 11th Saturday** We visit **CORBY** this Saturday for a woodland and lakeside walk. Meet for bus SC X4 at 10.50am. Lunch in the town. **SW**
- 13th Monday 11.00am to 1.00pm CURATION GROUP** We meet fortnightly to work on the Society's Collections, cleaning and sorting them and making databases to facilitate use of them. No previous experience is needed, all are welcome to help. Come and have real "hands-on" pleasure with some fascinating objects.
- 13th Monday 7.30pm ASTRONOMY SECTION AGM AND TELESCOPIC TOPICS.** We start the evening with our AGM, which is typically quite brief, then conclude with a members' meeting. If the weather's helpful we'll do a little practical urban astronomy too, so bring your binoculars and telescopes. Guests are welcome. **AST**
- 14th Tuesday 7.30pm Wildlife Recording.** The NNHS supports the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre with the use of the Humfrey Rooms. Tonight their meeting introduces NBRC's **WILDside Project** and the opportunities this new initiative presents for individuals and recording groups. <http://www.northantsbrc.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/NBRCNewsletter-Latest.pdf>
- 15th Wednesday 2.00pm-6.00pm EL NIÑO AND LA NIÑA: CLIMATE CHANGE OR BUSINESS AS USUAL?** We will be joining the Royal Meteorological Society live online at Imperial College London. El Nino and La Nina have dominated reporting of catastrophic droughts and floods around the globe in recent years. But what are they? How do they impact society and how might they affect us in the future? Leading experts will discuss what is what is known about El Nino and La Nina and their influence on global weather and climate. They will critically assess how these phenomena are projected to change and debate how this could feed through into agricultural, economic and societal impacts in the future. **MET**
- 15th Wednesday 8.00pm PRINT COMPETITIONS.** Up to three entries per member per round for each of the competitions. Monochrome

- General, Monochrome Portrait (Vic Seaton Cup), Colour Print (Jubilee Cup), Digital Art. Round 3 of 3 **PHO**
- 16th Thursday 2.30pm GEOLOGICAL MAPS – FUNCTION AND BEAUTY** Geological maps tell the story of the ground under our feet. The challenge is how to unlock that story! This talk, illustrated by maps from the British Geological Survey, will introduce some of the principles of geological mapping and celebrate the skill and dedication of the mapmakers. **GEO**
- 18th Saturday BLISWORTH** is a popular village with the Walkers. Meet for bus SC 88 at 1.19pm. Drinks available. **SW**
- 21st Tuesday 7.30pm STUFF FROM YOUR HOME UNDER THE MICROSCOPE** by Mike Gibson. This will be a fascinating chance to look at things from your kitchen and medicine cabinet. These include pills and potions from the humble aspirin to sodium bicarbonate, with particular reference to polarisation techniques. **MIC**
- 22nd Wednesday 8.00pm ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC** by James Ballantyne. James will talk about and show us some of the photos taken while on his work visits to the South Atlantic islands of the Falklands and South Georgia. **PHO**
- 25th Saturday** We travel to **HIGHAM FERRERS** today. Meet for bus SC X47 at 10.30am. Refreshments available. **SW**
- 27th Monday 11am-1pm CURATION GROUP** See 13th March for details.
- 27th Monday 7.30pm CONSTRAINING THE BOUNDARIES FOR THE POSSIBILITIES OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE ON EXOPLANETS** by Martin Braddock. Since the first exoplanet orbiting a main sequence star was announced in 1995, over 3,300 have been discovered, the most recent being Proxima b in August 2016. With exoplanets seemingly commonplace, the next challenge is to identify those whose physical and chemical characteristics may be candidates to support life. In this talk, Martin will describe some of the methods currently being used together with a glimpse of the late research findings drawn from recent scientific literature. **AST**
- 29th Wednesday 8.00pm UNDERWOOD CUP – FINAL** Pictorial image competition final. Today's entries are the winners of the previous three rounds of pictorial images. Invited judge. **PHO**
- 30th Thursday 2.30pm** Lecture to be announced. **ZOO/ORTH**

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- 1st Saturday 11:00am WEATHER FORECASTING** – the understanding of weather systems has improved over the years as has the accuracy of forecasts. We will learn about how these changes came about. **MET**
- 1st Saturday** A canalside stroll at **BUGBROOKE** is this week's plan. Meet for bus SC D3 at 11.02am. Refreshments available. **SW**
- 3rd Monday 8.00pm Instant Digital Image Battle** Our annual entertaining photo matching competition between NNHS and Northampton Camera Club, this year *hosted by Northampton at Hardingsstone Village Hall*. An invited judge will join in the fun as well as giving an informative critique of each photo. **PHO**
- 4th Tuesday 7.30pm OWL PELLETS & BAT DROPPINGS** by Mike Gibson. The best way to tell what the animal ate is to see what indigestible parts are voided as waste. Dissection and observation of samples. Pellets and droppings will be available for study. **MIC**
- 5th Wednesday 8.00pm PHOTOGRAPHING PEOPLE** by James Rudd. James is a local commercial photographer who will talk about the techniques he uses when photographing people. Anything from outside street photography through to inside studio portraits. **PHO**
- 6th Thursday 2.30pm SOILS.** An illustrated talk by Seán Karley. Most plants need to grow in some sort of soil, but because it is mostly underground (!) we can forget how important the soil is. **BOT**
- 8th Saturday BEDFORD** offers a variety of routes for today's walk. Meet for bus SC 41 at 10.49am. There's a choice of venues for refreshments **SW**

- 10th Monday 11am-1pm CURATION GROUP** See 13th March for details.
- 10th 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**
- 12th Wednesday 10.30am-2.30pm OPEN HOUSE** See the 8th March.
- 12th Wednesday 2.30pm BOURNEMOUTH** Pictures from a trip to Bournemouth and the surrounding area by Richard Young. **ARC/HIS**
- 12th Wednesday 8.00pm SET SUBJECT COMPETITION** A themed competition for up to three images per round. Entries in this round to illustrate 'STREET PHOTOGRAPHY' Round 4 of 4 **PHO**
- 13th Thursday 2.30pm RAILWAY JOURNEYS IN THE 50s.** Nonstop from Kings Cross to Edinburgh by Steam Loco .. Cyclists excursion train from Euston to explore the Northants countryside .. School party train journey to see the sights of London in the 1950s. **GEN**
- 15th Saturday** We visit the village of **LONG BUCKBY** for Easter Saturday. Meet for bus SC 96 at 10.39am. Refreshments available. **SW**
- 18th Tuesday 7.30pm PLANT STRUCTURE & FUNCTION – ROOTS** by Mike Asquith. A look at the roots and related underground structures of plants: A brief introduction followed by a look at prepared slides of roots from the society's collection. **MIC**
- 19th Wednesday 2.00pm – 6.00pm SEASONAL FORECASTING FOR THE UK AND EUROPE** We will be joining online the Royal Meteorological Society live from the Met Office in Exeter. The meeting will address current research and operational issues around seasonal prediction for the UK and Europe. In recent years significant advances have been made in wintertime seasonal prediction arising through increased understanding of the drivers of predictability and improvements in modelling capability. How can this information be best exploited by end users? Skilful summertime predictions remain more challenging, but our understanding is improving and the latest progress will be reviewed. **MET**
- 19th Wednesday 8.00pm. WORKSHOP – INTERPRETATION OF A PHOTO** A chance to put into practice some of the techniques demonstrated in previous workshops. Prior to the meeting members will all be given the same photo(s) to work on at home, then bring them along to compare the changes they made. **PHO**
- 20th Thursday 2.30pm BEEBY THOMPSON–THE OVERSEAS YEARS** In this second talk on the life of the Society's journal editor for 50 years, we will explore Beebey Thompson's overseas journeys to Argentina, Peru, Jamaica and Trinidad, and the work of his son Arthur. **GEO**
- 22nd Saturday EMBERTON COUNTRY PARK** is today's choice. Meet for bus SC 41 at 11.49am. Picnic if fine or use the café at the park. **SW**
- 24th Monday 11am-1pm CURATION GROUP** See 13th March for details.
- 24th Monday 7.30pm MEDIEVAL ASTRONOMY: THE NOT-SO-DARK AGES?** by Seb Falk. Seb Falk will introduce the methods and instruments of medieval astronomy. Astronomers in medieval universities and monasteries refined ancient theories, developed new ways of calculating and presenting information, and above all invented complex, ingenious instruments like astrolabes. Seb will explain some of these and show that perhaps the Dark Ages were not as dark as often thought. **AST**
- 26th Wednesday 8.00pm. CORNWALL CUP FINAL** The final of the Natural History competition for projected images. A chance to see the best images from the three rounds as they compete for the trophy. **PHO**
- 27th Thursday 2.30pm** Lecture to be announced. **ZOO/ORTH**
- 29th Saturday** April ends with a trip to the village of **MAIDWELL**. Meet for bus SC X7 at 1.21pm. Drinks after the walk. **SW**