
MARCH 2018

- 1st Thursday 2.30pm. THE PLANT KINGDOM. LECTURE 2.** How do we know the name of a plant? Plant Taxonomy de-mystified. Seán Karley **BOT**
- 3rd Saturday** It is time to visit **DUSTON** for the annual Flower Festival. Meet for bus SC 9A at 1.19pm. Refreshments at the Church Centre. **SW**
- 3rd Saturday 11:00am MONITORING THE WEATHER FROM HOME.** Weather monitoring kit ranges from the basic to cutting edge technology with prices to match. Even a second-hand weather station from a Challenger tank will set you back over £1,000 and you will still need a computer to make sense of the readings. We will look at the equipment available to the amateur weather enthusiasts at realistic prices. **MET**
- 5th 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. Have real "hands-on" pleasure with some fascinating objects.
- 6th Tuesday 7.30pm POLLEN (1)** by Mike Asquith. An introduction to this key element in plant reproduction – with samples. Pollen is essential part of plant reproduction. Pollen grains vary in shape and size between different plants. This enables us to identify the source, ie, which plants a bee has visited, by studying the grains under the microscope. **MIC**
- 7th Wednesday 8.00pm POST SHUTTER PROCESSING (2)** Dave Belton will demonstrate more 'Photoshop' digital processing techniques. We will also choose photos for the upcoming 'Photo Matching' competition with Northampton Camera Club. Members are welcome to bring along for consideration any photos not yet entered in a competition. **PHO**
- 8th Thursday 2.30pm THE DAY THE RAINS CAME.** Northampton and the Nene Valley suffered severe and damaging floods in Easter 1998 ... twenty years ago. Presentation on the events of the time with newsreel footage and eyewitness accounts. **GEN**
- 10th Saturday** We have chosen to visit **RUGBY** this Saturday for a walk in the parks. Meet for bus SC 96 at 10.39am. Lunch in the town. **SW**
- 12th Monday 7.30pm DETERMINING THE VELOCITY OF LIGHT FROM THE ECLIPSES OF IO** by Jens Buus. When the time of successive eclipse of Jupiter's moon Io are recorded, it turns out that there are systematic and periodic deviations from the expected values. It was found (by Romer) that this can be explained by assuming that the velocity of light is finite and that its value can be derived from the observations. This talk explains how this is done, and how complications can affect the result. **AST**
- 14th 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.
- 14th Wednesday 2.30pm** A look at a video made by members of the photographic section to celebrate Northampton in the 1930's. **ARC/HIS**
- 14th Wednesday 8.00pm CORNWALL CUP** A competition for members to submit natural history photos, as per PAGB rules. Up to three projected images per member per round allowed. Round 3 of 3. **PHO**
- 15th Thursday 2.30pm. WHIN SILL** by Bob Purser. Providing the setting for Hadrian's Wall, High Force and Lindisfarne, the Whin Sill is one of the defining features of northern England, we will look at the underlying geological processes in its formation and its current impact. **GEO**
- 17th Saturday BUGBROOKE** is a popular village with the walkers. Meet for bus SC D3 at 11.02am. Lunch at the Old School Room café. **SW**
- 19th Monday 11am–1pm CURATION GROUP** see 5th March for details.
- 20th Tuesday 7.30pm POLLEN (2)** by Mike Asquith. A practical session in making pollen mounts and slides. Pollen grains are not difficult to prepare for studying under the microscope. Bring a pollen bearing flower if you can, to enable you to prepare a slide to take home. **MIC**

21st Wednesday 2pm–6pm SPACE, SATELLITES AND SOLUTIONS

We join the Royal Meteorological Society on-line for a discussion on the Future of Climate Monitoring from Space. The Paris Agreement highlights the importance of good emissions monitoring. Satellites and space applications offer a solution for accurate and long-term climate change monitoring. This meeting will outline these solutions and then discuss new approaches in this area. Our panel will discuss new approaches to earth observation, future technology and highlight upcoming missions. **MET**

21st Wednesday INSTANT DIGITAL IMAGE BATTLE This year is our turn to host, in the Humfrey Rooms, the annual photo matching competition with Northampton Camera Club. An invited judge will join us for an entertaining evening, and an informative critique of each photo. **PHO**

24th Saturday An afternoon stroll round the village of **BRIXWORTH** is on offer today. Meet for bus SC X7 at 1.21pm. Drinks available. **SW**

26th Monday 7.30pm HERSCHEL'S PLANET by Michael Foulkes. Tonight we explore the planet Uranus under the expert guidance of Michael Foulkes, Director of the BAA's Saturn, Uranus and Neptune section. From discovery to the present day. Guests and visitors are welcome. **AST**

27th Tuesday 7.00pm – 7.30pm IDENTIFICATION SURGERY NBRC's WILDside Project Coordinator Ryan Clark, will help with anything to do with wildlife identification. Bring specimens or photos (or email the latter to him at wildside@northantsbrc.org.uk). He'll either help you correctly identify or find someone who can amongst local or national specialists.

27th Tuesday 7.30pm DOTS ON THE MAP: WHAT IS THE POINT OF RECORDING WILDLIFE? Ryan Clark from the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre will talk about what biological recording is, why it is essential to conservation, the joys of recording wildlife, the biological records centre, and how you can get involved with recording wildlife in Northamptonshire through the WILDside Project.

NBRC's meetings are arranged by the WILDside project which the NNHS supports with the use of the Humfrey Rooms.

28th Wednesday 8.00pm ORCHIDS AND OWLS – NOT CONCRETE COWS by Chris Ward. Natural history photographer Chris is both fairly local to us, and shares our interest in wildlife. Tonight is an illustrated talk on the diversity of birds and wildlife found around Milton Keynes. **PHO**

29th Thursday 2.30pm Lecture to be announced. **ZOO/ORTH**

31st Saturday HIGHAM FERRERS will be our destination for Easter Saturday. Meet bus SC X46 at 10.55am. Lunch obtainable at Higham. **SW**

APRIL 2018

2nd Monday 11am–1pm CURATION GROUP see 5th March for details.

3rd Tuesday 7.30pm WATER BUGS AND BEETLES (1) by Graham Warnes. An introduction. Rivers, streams, ponds and even bird baths are teeming with microscopic life forms. An introduction to where bugs and beetles can be found and how to recognise the common ones. **MIC**

4th Wednesday 8.00pm PAINTING WITH LIGHT WORKSHOP by Mathew Hancox. Bring along your camera equipment for a hands-on evening with Matt, using some of his equipment to make 'painting with light' photos. Venue to be confirmed. **PHO**

5th Thursday 2.30pm. THE PLANT KINGDOM. LECTURE 3. What plants grow in which places, and why? Plant Ecology; an introduction. By Seán Karley. **BOT**

7th Saturday A field walk to see the Spring lambs at **MAIDWELL**. Meet for bus SC X7 at 1.21pm. Drinks available in the village. **SW**

9th Monday 7.30pm. TELESCOPIC TOPICS A meeting comprising member contributions on various astronomy themes. Your chance to show the section observations you have made, equipment you are

using or anything else that has interested you enough to share it with the section. If you have a special interest and would like to participate as a speaker please let the secretary know beforehand. **AST**

7th Saturday 11:00am THE LAST GREAT FLOOD OF NORTHAMPTON It is 20 years since the last great flood of Northampton. We will review what happened and the likelihood of a reoccurrence. **MET**

10th Tuesday 7.45pm for 8.00pm Knockout competition versus Duston Camera Club. To be held at Duston Community Centre. NN5 6DT

11th Wednesday 10.30am - 2.30pm OPEN HOUSE Please see the 14th March for meeting details.

11th Wednesday 2.30pm THE ORIGINS OF THE RAILWAYS BY COLIN FORD. Colin will tell us about the development of steam power from pumping water to transporting goods and passengers. **ARC/HIS**

11th Wednesday 8.00pm SET SUBJECT COMPETITION A themed competition for up to three digital and/or print images per member per round. Entries in this round to illustrate 'LINES' Round 4 of 4 **PHO**

12th Thursday 2.30pm THE HISTORY OF ABINGTON PARK Illustrated presentation by local historian Douglas Goddard on the interesting history of Northampton's premier park - first opened to the public in 1897. **GEN**

14th Saturday STOKE BRUERNE this Saturday. Meet for UNO bus route 86 at 11.01 am. Refreshments are available or a picnic if warm. **SW**

16th Monday 11am–1pm CURATION GROUP see 5th March for details.

17th Tuesday 7.30pm. WATER BUGS AND BEETLES (2) Graham Warnes. Bring a sample of pond water etc so we can look at the life present under the microscope and identify a number of species. An opportunity to compare which species are most common in each type of location. **MIC**

18th Wednesday 8.00pm HIGH DYNAMIC RANGE with Steve Dormer. For those who missed him last time, Steve returns with his description and demonstration of the HDR process. Learn how to present both light and dark areas equally well in the same photograph. **PHO**

19th Thursday 2.30pm JURASSIC FOSSILS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE by Dr Mark Evans. Fossils are the markers of geological time and the Jurassic period is a rich period in the earth's history. Dr Mark Evans is one of the Midland's leading palaeontologist's, Curator of the palaeontology collection at New Walk Museum, Leicester and is well placed to introduce us to the Jurassic Fossils of Northamptonshire. **GEO**

21st Saturday BEDFORD offers a choice of walks. Meet for bus SC41 at 10.49am. Refreshments available in the town or picnic at the riverside. **SW**

24th Tuesday 7.00pm – 7.30pm IDENTIFICATION SURGERY NBRC's WILDside Project Coordinator, Ryan Clark. See 27th March for details.

24th Tuesday 7.30pm BUTTERFLY RECORDING IN NORTHANTS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. Douglas Goddard will outline the changing status of our County's butterflies over the past thirty years, Dave James will review current records and the ways in which recorders can become more involved and Susannah O'Riordan, Back from the Brink Project Officer, will publicise the exciting new initiative to reintroduce the Chequered Skipper and conserve other threatened species.

25th Wednesday 8.00pm UNDERWOOD CUP – FINAL Today the winners from the previous three rounds of our pictorial images competition vie for the trophy. Invited judge. Final Round. **PHO**

26th Thursday 2.30pm Lecture to be announced. **ZOO/ORTH**

28th Saturday Today, we have a new location to visit at **MARKET HARBOROUGH** – the Arboretum! Meet for bus SC X7 at 10.21am. A choice of venues for lunch or take a picnic. **SW**

30th Monday 11am–1pm CURATION GROUP see 5th March for details.

30th Monday 7.30pm. Guest speaker to be announced. **AST**