

## 2025

**18<sup>th</sup> November** 7.30pm **COAL** by Ian Wilson. Once the black gold, now an environmental pariah. Ian will introduce us to the wonders of coal and evidence of its origins that we can now see with the use of a microscope.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** 7.30pm **SOME ASPECTS OF THE NNHS HISTORIC SLIDE COLLECTIONS** by Mike Gibson. Mike will introduce us to some of the wonders of the Society's microscope slide collections. Ranging from slides made in Victorian times to modern examples.

**16<sup>th</sup> December** 7.30pm **STARCH IN FOODS** by Mike Asquith. Mike continues his annual exploration of the season's foods. Starch is the material whereby plants store energy. That energy store can be plundered by animals (especially man) as a food source. Starch also makes an interesting subject for microscopy. You are welcome to bring seasonal nibbles to share, or study under the microscope.

## 2026

**6<sup>th</sup> January** 7.30pm **NORTHERN NORWAY** by Kevin Rowley. The weather will probably be freezing and Kevin will make us even colder by treating us to an arctic travelogue with examples of the insects he found.

**20<sup>th</sup> January** 7.30pm **MAKING SLIDES OF EVERYDAY MATERIALS** Different materials often need slightly different treatment. We shall look at various everyday items and decide how best to make a preparation of the item or substance for studying under the microscope.

**3<sup>rd</sup> February** 7.30pm **HYMENOPTERA** by Ian Wilson. The wasps, bees, ants and sawflies are a huge group of fascinating insects. This includes some which live in huge colonies as well as many which are solitary. We will look at their behaviour and structure before putting some under the microscope to learn more.

**17<sup>th</sup> February** 7.30pm **OPTICAL SYSTEMS (PC, DIC, DG ETC)** by Mike Asquith and colleagues. An evening to learn what the jargon means and explore the various ways in which the microscope can be used for 'creative' image formation.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March** 7.30pm **NUCLEATION AND CRYSTALLISATION** We follow crystallisation as it happens under the microscope. Bring polarising filters and a microscope camera if you have them.

**17<sup>th</sup> March** 7.30pm **PROTOZOA / AMOEBA** by Ian Wilson. The title is rather vague as it's hard to know exactly what we will find at any particular time of year. We will talk about the various groups of single cell freshwater protists before looking in water samples to see what we can find. If you have a source of water which looks promising bring some along.

**14<sup>th</sup> April** 7.00pm – 9.00pm **150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT MOSS SAFARI** Discover the microscopic world of tiny animalcules that live in ordinary garden moss. This Zoom talk, presented by the author and Brighton University lecturer Dr. Andy Chandler-Grevatt, will be followed by a short hands-on session using our microscopes and moss samples. Join us at the Humphrey Rooms in the company of other members, or check out our website at [www.nnhs.info/What's-On/](http://www.nnhs.info/What's-On/) for more details and the Zoom link. Guests are very welcome at the rooms, but need to email [microscopy@nnhs.info](mailto:microscopy@nnhs.info) so that arrangements can be made to include them in the following practical session.

**21<sup>st</sup> April** 7.30pm **INSECT PARTS IV – INSECT REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS:** by Kevin Rowley. Part IV of Kevin's series on insect anatomy deals with the all-important reproductive organs. The use of the microscope is often the only way to determine the exact species and sex of insects.

**5<sup>th</sup> May** 7.30pm **GERMINATION** by Mike Asquith. What happens when a seed germinates? Mike will bring some slides of germinating seeds and some examples for you to examine under the microscope.

**19<sup>th</sup> May** 7.30pm **BACTERIA** by Ian Wilson. Life on earth is mostly bacteria. Sometimes they inconvenience us or even kill us but we couldn't live without them. We will talk about their huge variety before looking at some bacteria used in food production such as yoghurt as well as seeing what is in some hay infusions which are generally produced to provide a good source of bacteria for paramecium etc to feed on. Bring a microscope capable of phase contrast if you have it. If you can't bring one, use ours.

**2<sup>nd</sup> June** 7.30pm **COLLECT, BRING & DISPLAY** This is a chance for everybody to go out and collect something of microscopical interest to bring along and say a few words about it. Any item, either natural or man-made.

**16<sup>th</sup> June** 7.30pm **ROTIFERS PART 2** by John Smith. A more detailed look at the structure and behaviour of these tiny freshwater animals. With video footage to help you distinguish them from algae and protozoa. Please bring water or sediment samples from ponds, streams or bird baths etc to explore if you can.

**5<sup>th</sup> JULY - SUNDAY** Times to be confirmed.

**CELEBRATION OF MICROSCOPY.** A celebration of the microscopy section and its history in the NNHS in its 150<sup>th</sup> year. Please check our web site nearer the date for final details and timing. [www.NNHS.info/whats-on](http://www.NNHS.info/whats-on)

**7<sup>th</sup> July** 7.30pm **ROOTS** by Mike Asquith. Mike will look at this vital and often overlooked part of plants concentrating on Ranunculus (the buttercup family) as a model.

**21<sup>st</sup> July** 7.30pm **FRUIT FLIES** by Colin Brooks. Colin will describe how he has been collecting data for a national project to assess the impact of native and non-native fruit flies. An opportunity for all to explore a container of previously collected specimens to identify species and sex.

**4<sup>th</sup> August** 7.30pm **THINGS THAT LIVE IN LEAVES** by Ian Wilson. Leaves are the source of much of the food on earth. Going straight to the source and feeding directly on leaves can be a useful life choice. Leaf miners, mites, rusts and various galls all follow this path. We will look at how to spot interesting leaves and the life cycles of a few of the inhabitants of leaves before looking at some prepared specimens (and possibly some live material) under the microscope.

**18<sup>th</sup> August** 7.30pm **DAPHNIA** by John Smith. Daphnia (water fleas), by virtue of their size and the transparency of their shell, are the ideal subject for live microscope study. Tonight we will explore the results of over 250 years of research into the biology of this fascinating freshwater crustacean. Please bring a sample from your own pond or tank if you have one.

**1<sup>st</sup> September** 7.30pm **SEED DISPERSAL MECHANISMS** by Mike Asquith. Plants have many intriguing methods of scattering their seeds. We shall look at the structures and differences behind some of them.

**15<sup>th</sup> September** 7.30pm **AN AQUATIC EVENING** by Ian Wilson. An opportunity to look at anything we can find in fresh water. Having covered protozoa in a previous meeting we might look for other things like worms, flatworms, crustaceans, fly larvae and whatever else is in our samples. Bring along a sample if you have some water with signs of life in it.

**Please check our website  
[www.nnhs.info/Whats-On/](http://www.nnhs.info/Whats-On/) for any  
changes to advertised meetings.**