
JANUARY 2012

3rd (Tue) **VICTORIAN MICROSCOPE SLIDES** The society has a very large collection of Victorian microscope slides. We will look at a selection of them this evening and learn how they were made and the techniques used. **MIC**

4th (Wed) **UNDERWOOD CUP** Pictorial image competition for three projected digital images. Round 2 of 3. 8.00pm start **PHO**

5th (Thu) **“TIPTOE THROUGH THE DAISIES”** by Alan Le Fort. Alan will show us some of his close-up photographs of flowers. Some of these are so small that most people miss seeing them completely. **BOT**

7th (Sat) We start the year with a walk round **BILLING BROOK AND THE LAKES**. Meet in the bus station for SC1 at 1.35pm,*. Tea at the Weston Favell Centre. **SW**

8th (Sun) **WEATHER WORKSHOP** We will discuss the weather events and trends of the last month, and look forward to next month's weather. 2.30pm start. **MET**

9th (Mon) **CURATION GROUP** We will be curating our Sands Collection. This collection was started by Gordon Osborne, and is thought to be the largest collection of sands in private hands in the world. 10.30am to 12.30pm

9th (Mon) **TELESCOPIC TOPICS** Section members can showcase their interests and results with a chance to discuss recent observations, events and theories. Participation is invited and guests are very welcome. **AST**

11th (Wed) **OPEN HOUSE** The rooms will be open for members and guests to study the literature and exhibits. Tea, coffee, and biscuits available. 10.30am to 2.30pm

11th (Wed) **BIRD FLIGHT** by Jeff Blincow. Jeff, an author, lecturer and widely travelled birder, will look at the reason for and diverse modes of bird flight. Featuring in this lecture, through Jeff's stunning images, the iconic aerial skills of the Common Swift. 8.00pm start **PHO**

12th (Thu) **GILBERT WHITE – MAN OF NATURE** Portrait of the 18th century naturalist and author of "Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne". 2.30pm start. **GEN**

14th (Sat) **WELLINGBOROUGH** is today's walk in **SWANSPool** or **CROYLAND GARDENS**. Meet in bus station for SC X47 at 1.25pm. Refreshments available. **SW**

18th (Wed) **PRINT COMPETITIONS** Monochrome General and Monochrome Portrait competitions. Jubilee Cup, colour print competition, and tinted monochrome prints. Round 2 of 3. 8.00pm start **PHO**

19th (Thu) **ALL ABOUT GEOLOGY** In this course we are trying to explain, simply, the whole history of Geology. Which is of course, the whole world! Part Three **GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER**. Presented by Seán Karley. **GEO**

21st (Sat) Meet opposite **BECKET'S WELL** at 1.30pm for a local walk, followed by our A.G.M. in the rooms. **SW**

23rd (Mon) **CURATION GROUP** See 9th January for details of meeting. 10.30am to 12.30pm

24th (Tue) **RIGHTS OF WAY AND GREEN LANES OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE** by Maurice Tebbutt. Maurice returns to tell us more about the location and protection of these important resources for local naturalists. **ARC**

25th (Wed) **PHOTOGRAPHY - THE BASICS EXPLAINED, PREPARING YOUR IMAGE** a series of four lectures by Paul Hayes. Lecture 2. Confused by the terms, DPI, resolution etc? Paul will explain the terms used and demonstrate how to easily prepare images for printing, emailing or projection. 8.00pm start. **PHO**

26th (Thu) **CLOSE UP INSECTS** by Alan Le Fort. Alan is an expert at macro photography and in this lecture uses his amazing photographs to show us the remarkable world of insects, large and small. 2.30pm start **ZOO**

28th (Sat) **THORNTON PARK AND KINGSTHORPE VILLAGE** is the venue for today. Meet in the bus station for bus FN4 at 1.35pm,*. Refreshments available. **SW**

30th (Mon) **BBC STARGAZING LIVE SPECIAL** Once again the Astronomy section will be opening its doors to the general public as part of the BBC TV's Stargazing Live event. There will be talks on what to see in the skies above and advice on what telescope you should buy. If it's clear, there will be some practical observing. We will also be holding some extra observing evenings in January – please see the website for further details. **AST**

FEBRUARY 2012

1st (Wed) **INSTANT DIGITAL IMAGE BATTLE WITH NORTHAMPTON CAMERA CLUB** We host this fun and entertaining competition this year. The judge is Brian Pere who will give a light hearted and informative commentary on the images. 8.00pm start **PHO**

2nd (Thu) Botany section **AGM**, after which we will be studying some more of our section's slide collection. **BOT**

4th (Sat) We will commence our walk in the village of **WOOTTON** and make our way to the Garden Centre for tea. Meet in the bus station for bus SC15 at 1.40pm,*. **SW**

6th (Mon) **CURATION GROUP** See 9th January for details of meeting. 10.30am to 12.30pm

6th (Mon) **PHOTOGRAPHIC PRACTICAL EVENING** An informal practical evening where you decide the agenda at the meeting, using our studio flash kit, guidance in Photoshop or bring your own laptop or camera etc, if you have specific queries. 8.00pm start **PHO**

7th (Tue) **BRING, SHOW AND TELL** A perfect evening for beginners and the more experienced in microscopy. If you have an interesting piece of equipment or sample, bring it with you for all to see and discuss. **MIC**

8th (Wed) **OPEN HOUSE** See 11th January for details.

8th (Wed) **CORNWALL CUP** Natural History competition. Three projected images. Round 2 of 3. 8.00pm start **PHO**

9th (Thu) **BIRDS UP CLOSE** by Alan Le Fort. Alan returns by popular demand, this time with a presentation on an ornithological theme. 2.30pm start. **GEN**

11th (Sat) This Saturday Barbara has very kindly agreed to show us some more of her slides. Meet in the Humfrey Rooms at 2pm. Refreshments provided afterwards. **SW**

12th (Sun) **WEATHER WORKSHOP** We will discuss the weather events and trends of the last month, and look forward to next month's weather. 2.30pm start. **MET**

13th (Mon) **“BARNARD, GORDON, AND THE DARKNESS”**. Dark nebulae are often overlooked by the amateur astronomer. Nick Hewitt plans on putting this right with this informative lecture. **AST**

15th (Wed) **LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY** by Colin E Mill. The landscape of Britain varies, from the rolling downs in the south through the lakes and mountains of the Lake District up to the majestic highlands of Scotland. Colin, a photographer from Milton Keynes, will show us how he takes his atmospheric images. 8.00pm start. **PHO**

16th (Thu) Geology section **AGM** followed by "Bring & Show/Help" Will everyone please bring some items or images to show us or ask for help with identification. **GEO**

18th (Sat) It is now time for us to pay our annual visit to **DELAPRE** to see the snowdrops and aconites and also the recent restoration of the water gardens. Meet in the bus station for bus SC15 at 1.40pm,*. Tea and toasted teacakes at the Abbey tea rooms to warm us up. **SW**

20th (Mon) **CURATION GROUP** See 9th January for details of meeting. 10.30am to 12.30pm

22nd (Wed) **UNDERWOOD CUP** Pictorial image competition for three projected images, digital and/or slide. Round 3 of 3. 8.00pm start **PHO**

23rd (Thu) **ANIMAL QUIZ NIGHT** Vic and Mary, with their wealth of knowledge of the natural world will entertain and educate with this fun quiz. 2.30pm start **ZOO**

25th (Sat) A walk in the **CAMP HILL** area down to the lake will round off the month. Meet in the bus station for bus FN 12 at 1.35pm,*. **SW**

27th (Mon) **OBSERVATORIES OF THE WORLD** by Martin Morgan Taylor. As a director of the Dark Skies Association, Martin has the privilege of travelling the world to see many of the large professional observatories. Join us as he shares his experiences of what these giant telescopes can offer. **AST**

28th (Tue) **HOUSES GREAT AND SMALL** A look at some of the well known and less well known properties that are in the care of the National Trust, preceded by a brief Archaeology section AGM. **ARC**

29th (Wed) **PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION AGM** Have your say on how your club is run. 8.00pm start. **PHO**