
MARCH 2019

2nd Saturday Today's is **DUSTON'S ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL**. Meet for bus SC 9A at 1.19pm. Tea and cake at the Church Centre. **SW**

2nd Saturday 11:00am to 12:30pm **CLOUDS 1** Low level Clouds, Stratus, Stratocumulus and Fair Weather Cumulus are perhaps the commonest clouds we see. We will look at how to identify them, how they are formed, and what they tell us about the weather. If the weather is suitable we will go outside and try our hand at identification and calculate their height. **MET**

4th Monday 11:00am-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. We are currently working on our collection of Shells. **MIC**

5th Tuesday 7.30pm **BLOOD UNDER THE MICROSCOPE - PRACTICAL (PART 2)** We will be making a permanent slide of blood that you can take away with you using pre-prepared samples. **MIC**

6th Wednesday 8.00pm **PHOTO EXPLORATIONS** Taking photos with a smartphone or tablet has become commonplace. We explore the success or not of this genre. Bring along some examples. We will also choose photos for the 'Photo Matching' competition with Northampton C.C. and Knockout comp' with Duston C.C. Members can bring along for consideration any photos not yet entered in a competition. **PHO**

7th Thursday 2.30pm. **BOTANY SECTION AGM**. To be followed by a Bring and Show/Ask/Tell. Please bring a sample or image of anything Botanical you would like to Talk or Ask about, or just share. **BOT**

9th Saturday There is a wealth of history to be uncovered at **ROTHWELL**. Meet for bus SC X4 to Kettering at 10.20am where we board the bus to take us on to our final destination. Refreshments available. **SW**

11th Monday 7.30pm A talk entitled **THE ROLE OF HUMAN ENHANCEMENT IN DEEP SPACE** by Martin Braddock. Martin currently works in the pharmaceutical industry researching new drugs for asthma and COPD. He has had a lifelong passion astronomy and is especially interested in astrobiology. Guests and visitors are welcome. **AST**

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

13th Wednesday 2.30pm A trip to **SOUTH WALES** to see a man who died 29000 years ago followed by a visit to the Solent. **ARC/HIS**

13th Wednesday 8.00pm **CORNWALL CUP** A competition for members to submit natural history photos, as per PAGB rules 2018. Up to three projected images per member per round allowed. Round 3 of 3. **PHO**

14th Thursday 2.30pm **JOHN HARRISON AND HIS TIMEKEEPERS** The story of the solution to the longitude problem - the difficulty of navigation and position finding at sea when out of sight of land. **GEN**

16th Saturday A popular local walk at **HARLESTONE FIRS** is today's choice. Meet for bus SC 96 at 12.43pm. **SW**

18th Monday 11:00am-1:00pm **CURATION GROUP**. See 4th March. **MIC**

18th Monday **Instant Digital Image Battle** Our annual photo matching competition with Northampton Camera Club. An invited judge will join us for an entertaining evening, and to give an informative critique of each photo. This year hosted by NCC at Hardingstone Village Hall. 8pm start

19th Tuesday 7.30pm **OBSERVING & GROWING CRYSTALS** by Mike Gibson and Mike Holmes. A very popular topic revisited to show how common household chemicals available in your kitchen and medicine cabinet are birefringent (have two different refractive indices) when prepared and viewed under polarized light on a microscope slide. **MIC**

20th Wednesday 8.00pm **IMAGINATIONS** by Graham Heywood. Graham is a local photographer interested in Creative, Sports, and Travel photography. In tonight's illustrated talk he will show us how he uses his imagination when taking his photos. **PHO**

21st Thursday 2.30pm **MIDLANDS MINERALS** by Roy Starkey. Blue John, Alabaster, Ashford Black Marble. With quarrying and mining pivotal to the economy of the Midlands Roy will introduce key themes from his impressive new book including an insight into the collectors and collections held in regional museums as well as the Natural History Museum. **GEN**

21st Thursday 7.30pm **NNHS COUNCIL MEETING**

23rd Saturday An afternoon stroll around the village of **BRIXWORTH** is on offer today. Meet for bus SC X7 at 1.21pm. Drinks available. **SW**

25th Monday 7.30pm **ASTRONOMY SECTION AGM** Election of officers a review of the last year and looking forward to the next year of exciting events in astronomy. **AST**

26th Tuesday 7.30pm **-THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BUMBLEBEES** – Ryan Clark. Northamptonshire's bees, wasps and ant recorder Ryan Clark will give us a talk on the wonderful world of Bumblebees. He will talk about their ecology, the species that can be found in Northamptonshire and how to record them. Arranged by the WILDside project which the NNHS supports with the use of the Humfrey Rooms. **MIC**

27th Wednesday 8.00pm **PRINT COMPETITIONS** Up to 3 entries per member per round for each of the four competitions. Monochrome General, Monochrome Portrait (Vic Seaton Cup), Colour Print (Jubilee Cup), Digital Art. Round 3 of 3 **PHO**

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

30th Saturday Lunch in **MARKET HARBOROUGH** before travelling on to **GREAT BOWDEN** for a walk. Meet for bus SC X7 at 10.51am. **SW**

APRIL 2019

1st Monday 11:00am-1:00pm **CURATION GROUP**. See 4th March. **MIC**

2nd Tuesday 7.30pm **LEAF STRUCTURE & FUNCTION (PART 1)** by Mike Asquith and Mike Gibson. In this lecture the two Mikes will develop our understanding of plant anatomy by showing us the various ways higher plants have adapted and use their leaves not only to photosynthesize, but also to capture live food and protect themselves from predators. **MIC**

3rd Wednesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm **THE PLIOCENE: THE LAST TIME EARTH HAD 400 PPM OF ATMOSPHERIC CO2**. The last time carbon dioxide was so plentiful in our planet's atmosphere was in the Pliocene era, around 3 million years ago. Life on Earth was dominated by giant mammals. Although the sun's force was about the same, the sea levels were 15 metres higher and Arctic summer temperatures were 14 degrees higher than the present day. We shall join the Royal Meteorological Society on line to hear the latest thoughts on this scenario. **MET**

3rd Wednesday 8.00pm **THAT'S NOT A LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPH** by Huw Alban. Huw specialises in taking natural images of the world around us, often pushing the limits of conventional thinking. His photographs have appeared throughout the country in various exhibitions and competitions, and have been published worldwide in magazines and books. At this shared meeting with Towcester Camera Club, he will illustrate his views with respect to landscape photography. **Towcester CC venue, not in Humfrey Rooms.** **PHO**

4th Thursday 2.30pm. **ALL ABOUT PLANTS - IDENTIFYING PLANTS (PART 5)**. by Seán Karley. A study of aspects of the Plant Kingdom, spread over several afternoon meetings. Please bring along any plants or images of plants you want to find a name for. Visitors very welcome. **BOT**

6th Saturday 11:00am to 12.30pm **CLOUDS 2**. Medium level Clouds, Altostratus, etc. Often hidden from view by low level clouds those at mid level are often brighter and less gloomy. We will look at how to identify them, how they are formed, and what they tell us about the weather. If weather is suitable we will go out and try identification. **MET**

6th Saturday Another popular local village is **BUGBROOKE** where we can enjoy a walk beside the canal and then take lunch at the School Rooms. Meet for bus SC D3 at 11.07am. **SW**

8th Monday 7.30pm **ORBITS AND ENERGY** by Paul Daniels. The president of the FAS visits the society to present this interesting topic. asteroids and planets no doubt. guests and visitors are welcome. **AST**

10th Wednesday 10.30am - 2.30pm **OPEN HOUSE** See 13th March. **MIC**

10th Wednesday 2.30pm **THE OLD AND NEW SILK ROADS** Colin will cover the ancient sea and land routes between China and India. **ARC/HIS**

10th 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 'HELP' Round 4 of 4. **PHO**

11th Thursday 2.30pm **THE RECTOR OF TWYWELL** Presentation by section secretary John Peet on Rev. Horace Waller. Interesting story involving the slave trade, David Livingstone, General Gordon of Khartoum and the Natural History Society. **GEN**

11th Thursday 7.30pm **BATS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND BEYOND** – Juliette Butler Juliette Butler will give us an introduction to the fascinating world of bats. She will look at the species found in the UK, especially highlighting those which we have in Northamptonshire. She will talk about their importance, where they are found and how we survey them. Arranged by the WILDside project which the NNHS supports with the use of the Humfrey Rooms. **MIC**

13th Saturday A walk across the fields and on to the **BRAMPTON VALLEY WAY AT MAIDWELL** is becoming an annual event! Meet for bus SC X7 at 1.21pm. Drinks are available in the village. **SW**

15th Monday 11:00am-1:00pm **CURATION GROUP**. See 4th March. **MIC**

16th Tuesday 7.30pm. **LEAF STRUCTURE & FUNCTION (PART 2)** An opportunity to make your own slides of leaves as well as examine a range of slides from the society's extensive collection. **MIC**

17th Wednesday 8.00pm **KNOCKOUT COMPETITION** against Duston Camera Club. Following last year's successful evening we have invited Duston for a return match, hosted by NNHS in the Humfrey Rooms. **PHO**

18th Thursday 2.30pm **PEMBROKESHIRE**. Bob Purser will tell the story of the extraordinary range of geological environments, rock types and landforms from Ordovician bluestones of Craig Rhos-y-felin to Carboniferous coal measures of Sandersfoot and the Carboniferous Limestone of the Green Bridge of Wales. **GEN**

20th Saturday Easter Saturday sees us boarding the bus to **RUGBY**. Meet for bus SC 96 at 10.43am. Refreshments available in the town. **SW**

24th Wednesday 8.00pm **UNDERWOOD CUP – FINAL** The round where the winners from the previous three rounds of our pictorial images competition vie for the trophy. Invited judge. Final Round. **PHO**

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

27th Saturday The spring ends with a walk along part of the **BRAMPTON VALLEY WAY**. Meet for bus SC 15 at 1.18pm. Tea at Kingsthorpe. **SW**

29th Monday 11:00am-1:00pm **CURATION GROUP**. See 4th March. **MIC**

29th Monday 7.30pm **TELESCOPIC TOPICS**. An evening of member talks and contributions on Astronomy themes. If you have made an observation you would like to share, seen something interesting or have images to share please inform the secretary to allocate you a spot. Guests and visitors are very welcome. **AST**