



Programme Coordinator's Report for AGM 2021

Ann Miles FRPS

Field Meetings and Workshops during the last 18 months have been very disrupted for obvious reasons but, whenever restrictions have allowed, Nature Group Members have taken part in the various Field Events.

During 2019, we ran 11 Field Meetings and 2 Macro Workshops.

In 2020, we managed to run nine Field Meetings. Before lockdown they were to: Ham Wall, Somerset; Titchwell, Norfolk and Welney, Norfolk. After easing, successful trips were made to: Sharpenhoe Clappers, Buckinghamshire; Snettisham, Norfolk; Paxton Pits, Cambridgeshire; Monkwood, Worcestershire; Clowes Wood, Kent and Bradgate Park, Leicestershire. A further 10 events organised to Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, London, Nottinghamshire, Pembrokeshire, Somerset and Warwickshire had to be cancelled. All events were well supported.

Like many groups, we decided to run Zoom meetings including both techniques talks and lectures. In 2020, Ian Wilson ran four very successful sessions on various processing skills. Mick Durham, Chair of the Natural History Photography RPS Distinctions panel ran a Zoom Distinction Advice session, which was followed by a full Natural History Advisory Day run from Bristol HQ. The Chairman's Day talks were varied and very enjoyable and the year rounded off with a lecture by Adrian Davies on Photographing the Unknown World.

2021 commenced with Zoom sessions from: Ian Wilson on File Preparation and Printing; Nick Upton on UK Wildlife Introductions and Conservation; Robert Canis on Passion Projects In Nature and the Landscape and Charles Erb took us Beneath UK Seas. In March, Alison Mees entertained us with a very informative talk on Cheetahs in her Living the African Dream and Qasim Syed showed us how to Focus Stack with a handheld camera. We have still to come: Dynamic Wildlife with Gordon and Cathy Illg and A Year in the Life of a Yorkshire Wildlife Photographer with Steve Race. Most of the lectures and demonstrations are available as Recordings from the Nature Group Page of the RPS Website.

As soon as lockdown eased at the end of March, we started to arrange Field Meetings (numbers will be limited and social distancing will be observed). There are 10 field meetings already advertised at the time of this report with more to come. These are to: Royston Heath, Hertfordshire for Pasque flowers; Paxton Pits, Cambridgeshire; Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire; Lake Vyrnwy, Powys; Rutland Water Leicestershire; Prestbury Hill, Gloucestershire; Strumpshaw Fen, Norfolk; Martin Down, Hampshire; Snettisham, Norfolk and Titchwell, Norfolk.

I would like to thank all those who have volunteered to run or assist with either outings (Julia Andrew, Annette Beardsley, John Bebbington, Nick Bowman, Trevor Davenport, James Foad, Duncan Locke, Qasim Syed and Peter Ward) or Zoom sessions including Mick Durham, Ian Wilson, Qasim Syed and all our excellent Speakers.

We are still looking for Volunteers to help organise events so we can spread the locations out over more of the country. I am always willing to come to your area and help with an initial event if required and we take care of all the advertising and booking procedures. You can restrict the numbers to whatever you are comfortable with.

We would also love to hear from Members about what they would like to see in the Nature Group's programme, for example another Macro Workshop, Focus Stacking Days, help with Video Techniques, etc.

Ann Miles FRPS

6th April 2021