

NEWSLETTER 74

January 2026



Male *Ribautiana tenerrima* Bramble Leafhopper. See article on p. 7.

In this edition

First record of Spongefly <i>Sisyra terminalis</i>	3	<i>Cheilotrichia imbuta</i> – a crane fly new to VC55	7
County Recorder Conference	3	Gold Spangle reappears after eleven years	8
Polarised Light Microscopy	4	The woodland landscape of Leicestershire and Rutland	8
2025 Moth trapping at Broughton Astley	6	LRES Occasional Publications (LESOPS)	9
Lurking in the bramble patch	7	2026 Indoor Meetings Programme	10

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to:
Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust

**Chairman &
LRES Occasional Publications Editor:**
Ray Morris
16 Hinckley Road, Dadlington
Leics. CV13 6HU
Email: ray@cactusbob.net

Secretary:
Alan Cann
17 Overdale Road, Leicester LE2 3YJ
Email: alan.cann@gmail.com

Treasurer:
vacant
(Acting Treasurer: Ray Morris)

Committee Members:
Sue Timms
17 The Square, Bagworth, Leics. LE67 1DQ
Email: sue.timms@clara.co.uk

Nicola Bashforth
Nicola.bashforth@Btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor:
Steve Woodward
19 Highfield Road, Groby, Leicester LE6 0GU
Email: grobysteve@talktalk.net

Publications downloadable from:
<https://www.naturespot.org.uk/content/leicestershire-rutland-entomological-society>

© 2026 Leicestershire & Rutland Entomological Society

The editor will be happy to receive articles, short notes and photos (in focus please!) about insects or other invertebrates in Leicestershire and Rutland, also news of members' activities further afield. Photos to be sent separately please at high resolution. Unless otherwise credited, photos are by the author of the article.

Next Copy Deadline: 5 September 2026



A positive attitude to wildlife at Hoby Churchyard. Ed.

Editorial

Through our publications and public-facing events we try our best to educate the population of Leicestershire and Rutland, but it appears that some folk are mixing up butterflies with hoverflies! See below.



A display at Uppingham Garden Centre.

My fieldwork in 2025 was aimed at places (1 km grid squares) where no botanist had ever been, listing mainly common plants but also making casual records of insects. A memorable beetle encounter still makes me feel giddy when I recall it ... in Horninghold parish on 19 September I found two Devil's Coach-horse beetles *Ocypus olens* on a track. Upon close inspection, one adopted the threatening scorpion pose, with tail raised and jaws wide open. Of course, the beetle does



not have a sting in its tail, but evidently the jaws are capable of giving a nip. The second beetle was behaving very oddly, running laps around a tight circuit, about 10 cm in diameter. Training for the Staphylinid Marathon perhaps? After watching for a minute or two, and taking a short video, I moved on. I have read about ants that slavishly follow a scent trail, which sometimes accidentally get stuck in a loop then run themselves to death. Perhaps I should have rescued the beetle from this possible fate by moving it to another spot, lacking a scent trail.

Steve Woodward
Editor

First record of Spongefly *Sisyra terminalis* for VC55

The Charnwood Branch of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and Loughborough Naturalists' Club jointly organised a Bioblitz at Queen's Park Loughborough. We started with moth trapping and a public bat walk on Friday evening 1 August 2025 and continued with a full day of displays and nature walks on Saturday 2 August, with experts invited to help identify finds. All the records obtained were recorded on either NatureSpot or other official systems.

Queen's Park Loughborough is a traditional town centre formal park owned by Charnwood Borough Council, managed by idverde UK, with colourful flower beds, water features, specimen trees and shrubs. The current annual flower planting regime is designed to be attractive but much more pollinator friendly than in the past, and the banks of the ornamental stream running through the Park have also been planted in a more wildlife-friendly way. The stream is an artificial offshoot of the Woodbrook which flows past Queen's Park before being culverted to appear occasionally in the town before joining the Grand Union Canal. The park is visited by many people who use the café and the playgrounds, enjoy the floral displays, and to listen to music recitals at the bandstand.

One moth trap was located next to the ornamental stream and was in operation from dusk to midnight. All the contents were collected and identified. The moths were recorded as expected but also caddisflies, bugs, beetles, mayflies and craneflies were identified. Two very small insects (about 5-6 mm) were identified as *Sisyra terminalis* and *Sisyra nigra* (formerly *fuscata*), using Plant (2013). The Sisyridae family is in the Order Neuroptera, Lacewings. There are just three British Sisyridae species which are separated by the pale antennae ends of *Sisyra terminalis*, the uniform brown wings of *Sisyra nigra* and the darker marks on the wings of *Sisyra dalii*.

The species found had uniformly brown wings. One specimen had pale tips to the antennae (Fig. 1) whereas the other (Fig. 2) did not. This was difficult to photograph but the photos were sufficiently good for James E. Jepson, British Isles Lacewing and Allies Recording Scheme, to accept the records.

Sisyra nigra has been recorded in VC55 before, there being currently 12 records on NatureSpot and probably others not there recorded. There were no records on NatureSpot for *Sisyra terminalis* and following a request to LRERC, it was clear that there were no records for the County, this now being the first. There



Fig. 1. Spongefly *Sisyra terminalis*, with pale antenna tips.



Fig. 2. Spongefly *Sisyra nigra*, with completely dark antennae.

seem to be only 41 records on NBN, compared to *Sisyra nigra* with 538 records.

The life cycle of Spongeflies is curious in that the larvae live in fresh water feeding on or inside freshwater sponges. Spongeflies are thought to not fly far from water so it can be postulated that there may be freshwater sponges in the Queen's Park stream, yet to be searched for.

References

Plant, C. 2013. *AIDGAP Key to the Adults of British lacewings and their allies*. FSC.

Hazel Graves

COUNTY RECORDER CONFERENCE 2026 Hosted by Leicestershire County Council

28 Feb, County Hall

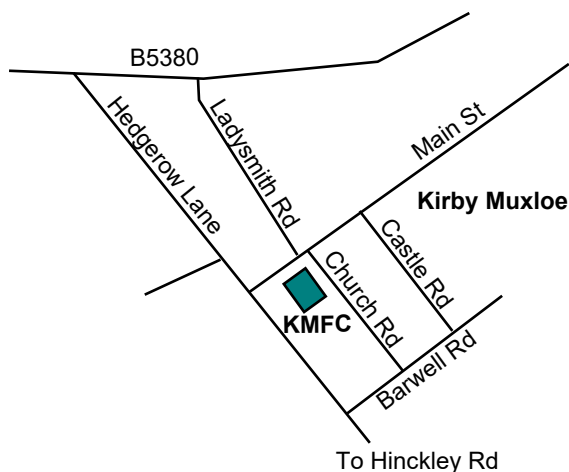
Expect a day of insightful talks, presentations and display stands about local wildlife and conservation initiatives in our area, with opportunities for people to get involved.

[Details here](#)

2026 Indoor Meetings Programme

We meet at Kirby Muxloe Free Church. Entry will be solely by walking past the main entrance to the side door and up a few steps. The room is just to the left.

Guests are welcome to join us at meetings.



The LRES AGM will be held on Thursday 12 March in Kirby Muxloe Free Church Hall at 7.30 pm.

Papers for this meeting will be circulated to members in advance. Before that, coming up in January and February we have two online meetings - we will send you the details to participate in these before each meeting:

Thursday 22 January 7.30 pm

Up Close and Personal: Macrophotography Methods
- Alan Cann

This is a talk for photographers who want images that look beautiful - and help confirm species identities for biological records. Alan Cann has built up a collection of over 3,000 digital images and this talk will take you on a photographic journey through the methods he uses. As someone on a budget he prioritises economical solutions, and follows Sir Dave Brailsford's philosophy of marginal gains. Join us online for a photographic journey through the fine details of specimen photography.

Thursday 19 February 7.30 pm

Leafhoppers & allies: identification, ecology and recording - Alan Stewart

This talk will explore the leafhoppers, planthoppers, froghoppers and treehoppers, collectively known as the Auchenorrhyncha. With over 400 species in

Britain, Alan Stewart, the coordinator for the national Auchenorrhyncha Recording Scheme, will provide an introduction to this diverse and attractive group of plant-feeding insects. He will cover the basic identification features of the main families, including some common and distinctive species that people are most likely to come across, their ecology including associations with particular plants, habitats and their geographical distributions, and some suggestions for collecting and recording. The talk is suitable for anyone with no prior knowledge of this group.

Alan Cann
Secretary

Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society
Natural History Section Joint Lecture

What have Insects ever done for us?



George McGavin
Zoologist, Author, Broadcaster

9 March 7:30 pm. Hansom Hall in the Leicester Adult Education College, 50-54 Belvoir St, Leicester LE1 6QL

Insects are the most diverse and successful group of animals on Earth. They are an essential component of every terrestrial and aquatic food chain- without them the world would be a very different place. But insects have a dark side - they have changed the short course of human history by killing hundreds of millions of people and destroying their crops.

Guest tickets £7. For details see

<https://www.leicesterlitandphil.org.uk/event-6105999>