Royal Entomological Society
Special Interest Group
Outreach

Outreach, Culture & Education Special Interest Group (SIG) 2026

Wednesday 25 – Thursday 26 November
RES Headquarters AND Natural History Museum, London

Programme

Wednesday – *RES Headquarters*

09:30	Registration & Refreshments
10:00	**Introduction** RES staff & SIG Convenors
10:10	**KEYNOTE: Framings of Insects in Discourse and their Effects on Urban Public Perceptions** Olivia Knapton, King's College London
11:00	Refreshment break
11:30	**Connecting biological research and science communication, one ant at a time** Filippo Nicolini, University of Leicester
11:50	**Developing entomologists through outreach: benefits for students and diverse urban communities** Ronan Sidnell, Queen Mary University of London
12:10	**Introducing the Ommatidium Project: a new approach to outreach in invertebrate science** Armando Rosario Lebrón, Swansea University/Smithsonian
12:30	**Insects & Identity: Understanding Connection to Insects Within the Queer Community to Inform More Effective Insect Conservation** Claire Lawler, University of Edinburgh
12:40	Lunch & optional Library Tours
13:40	**Modern Tabletop Games as Vehicles for Public Literacy in Insect Science** Matt Green, Rentokil
14:00	**Entomological anniversaries in the Netherlands** Jitte Groothuis, Netherlands Entomological Society, Wageningen University & Research - Laboratory of Entomology & Jittebug Ento Art
14:20	**Creepy to Compelling: How Nature Documentaries Can Shape Our View of Insects** Jack Smith, BBC Studios
14:40	Refreshment break

15:00 **WORKSHOP: Insect Illustration draw-along**
Carim Nahaboo, Natural History Artist

16:00 **How do we consider cultural values in the conservation prioritisation of invertebrates?**
Richard Smith, Natural England

16:20 **Using the Performance Arts in Outreach**
Peter Smithers

16:40 Closing remarks

16:50 Finish

Thursday – *Natural History Museum*

10.00 Arrival (museum opens)

10.20 **Welcome and introduction**
Peter Smithers, RES

10.30 **Bees, wasps and other insects as icons in department store window displays**
Rhea Thierstein, Artist

11.00 **Vespid, an exhibition inspired by wasps**
Louisa Crispin, Artist

11.15 **Uncovering the natural history of potter wasps and other hymenoptera, art and entomology in the field**
John Walters, Artist/Ecologist

11.45 **The diversity and beauty of the Hymenoptera**
Gavin Broad, Natural History Museum

12.30 Lunch *(not provided)*

13.30 **Tours of Hymenoptera & Lepidoptera collections**

15.30 Closing remarks

16.00 Finish