

Please check the web site www.bnhs.org.uk or join the BNHS News Group for the latest information.

Indoor talks start at 8pm at Maulden Village Hall, TL048380, MK45 2DP. Parking is free.

Visitors are encouraged. A small charge is requested for refreshments at the talks and possibly on other occasions too. Donations are always welcome.

For field meetings, wear stout footwear and appropriate clothing. Bring a hat, water and sun cream if hot.

OS Landranger Numbers 152, 153, 165 & 166 cover Bedfordshire.

(F) Particularly suitable for families and young people.

Children 16 years and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

(L) Bring a picnic lunch for all day events.

REGRETTABLY NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED.

* Indicates meetings organised by the ornithological section, the Bedfordshire Bird Club (BBC). For additional BBC meetings, see the website: www.bedsbirdclub.org.uk

TUESDAY 18th APRIL, MAULDEN 8pm

Talk “Dr Martin Lister (1639-1712), pioneer conchologist” by Peter Topley, Honorary

President of the Conchological Society. This talk will relate the fascinating story of Martin Lister, the first ‘modern’ conchologist and arachnologist, Vice-President of the Royal Society, friend of John Ray and collaborator of Isaac Newton. It will also tell of the family production of his magnum opus, the *Historiae Conchyliorum*, featuring just under one thousand engravings of shells.

***SUNDAY 23rd APRIL, PEGSDON 8am**

BBC walk in the morning over Pegsdon Hills for spring migrants. Park and meet in car park of Live and Let Live Inn, Pegsdon, TL121303.

Leader: Jon Palmer.

THURSDAY 27th APRIL, FLITWICK 7pm-9:30pm (F)

Walk in Flitwick Manor Park, one of the earliest examples of the planting of an arboretum in Britain, started in 1819 by John Thomas Brooks. A number of his original trees survive in the publicly accessible pinetum, along with others planted up until 1858. These include some of the oldest known plantings outside their natural habitat. Limited parking in local streets. Meet at site entrance, TL03233425, MK45 1HU.

Leader: David Alderman.

***SUNDAY 30th APRIL, BROOM 7am**

BBC walk around Broom Gravel Pits for spring migrants. Park and meet at end of Kings Road, off High Street, Broom, TL172433.

Leader: John Tomlin.

SATURDAY 6th MAY, FLITTON 2pm-4pm (F)

Visit Flitton Moor to do some pond dipping and explore the nature trail. Meet at the barn at the end of Brook Lane, TL057360, MK45 5EJ.

Leader: David Sedgley.

***SUNDAY 7th MAY, MAULDEN WOOD 4:15am**

BBC Annual Dawn Chorus in Maulden Wood.

Meet in lay-by at top of Deadman's Hill on A6 TL072394. Hot fried breakfast to follow at 7am, price £3.00. Please order 5 days in advance with John Adams on 01234 381532.

Leader: Pete Marshall.

SUNDAY 14th MAY, LUTON 10:30am-1pm (F)

Walk along Luton's underrated river corridor to look at the habitats and species of the Upper Lea, with the chance of spotting water vole, kingfisher, spring flowers and much more. Free parking at Wardown Museum, TL088229, LU2 7HA or TL089228, LU2 7HW, beside the bowling green. Meet in the car park at front of museum.

Leader: Trevor Tween.

SUNDAY 21st MAY, WHIPSNAD 11am (F)

Visit Whipsnade Downs for the Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Grizzled and Dingy Skippers for a joint meeting with Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Butterfly Conservation. Meet in the Bison Hill car park, SP999184, LU6 2LA.

Leader: Greg Herbert.

***THURSDAY 25th MAY, ST NEOTS 7pm**

Walk around Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, Near St Neots, Cambs for breeding species especially Nightingales. Meet in reserve car park, TL197629, PE19 6ET.

Leader: Richard Bashford.

THURSDAY 8th JUNE, TOTTERNHOE 10:30am (F)

Visit Totternhoe Knolls for chalk downland flowers and other wildlife. Meet in the NT car park, SP986217, LU6 1QG.

Leader: Graham Bellamy.

WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE, MAULDEN 7-9pm (F)

Visit Duck End NR for the abundant wildlife at this small, varied reserve. Limited parking at the site in Moor Lane, Maulden, TL051374, MK45 2DJ.

Leader: David Withers.

SATURDAY 24th JUNE, FLITWICK 10am-4pm (F) (L)

Visit Flitwick Moor SSSI for the Invertebrate Day joint meeting with Flit Vale Wildlife Trust Local Group, recording invertebrates and other wildlife. Meet in car park at end of Folly Lane, off Maulden Road by Folly Farm, TL045354, MK45 5BW. Leader: Colin Carpenter.

***SUNDAY 25th JUNE, SANDY 8am**

Walk around RSPB Sandy Lodge Reserve for a variety of birds. Meet in the gatehouse car park, TL191485, SG19 2DL. Leader: Graham Goodall.

***SUNDAY 9th JULY, ELSTEAD 9am**

Joint Day Trip to Thursley Common NNR, Surrey for heathland species plus some excellent dragonflies and butterflies. Meet in reserve car park, SU900417, on B3001 south of Elstead. Leader: Pete Marshall.

THURSDAY 20th JULY, STREATLEY 10:30am (F)

Walk on Sharpenhoe Clappers for summer butterflies especially Dark Green Fritillary and other wildlife. Meet in Sharpenhoe Clappers car park, TL065295, MK45 4SH. Leader: Wilf Powell.

THURSDAY 27th JULY, SANDY 10:30am (F)

Walk at The Lodge, RSPB headquarters looking at different stages of heathland restoration and the wildlife it supports. Meet in the car park (free for RSPB members), TL191485, SG19 2DL. Leader: Betty Cooke.

WEDNESDAY 9th AUGUST, EATON BRAY 10:30am

Visit Bellows Mill for dragonflies and other invertebrates. Follow Bellows Mill Lane to the end

where you will see the old mill house in front of you. Carry on round to the right past the short-let chalets and into the field by the lake to a crushed stone car park, SP980196, LU6 1QZ.

Leader: Rory Morrissey.

***WEDNESDAY 9th AUGUST, DUNSTABLE 7pm**

Visit Dunstable Sewage Treatment Works for a variety of wetland species. Meet in Birdwatcher's car park, off Thorn Road, TL004242.

Leader Rob Dazley, Hon Warden.

SUNDAY 13th AUGUST, HEATH & REACH

11am-4pm (F)

Rushmere Summer Fair. Visit the BNHS stand to see the Nature Table, photographic displays and quizzes. Park in the Rushmere car park, SP912284, LU7 0EB. Parking £2.00.

Leader: Julia Powell.

SUNDAY 13th AUGUST, CLIFTON 10:30am-4pm (F)

Bioblitz in Clifton churchyard and vicarage garden. The nature table will also be present. There will be an opportunity to try out techniques such as beating, sweeping, sieving and bark brushing. The area covered may be extended around the village to the hedgerows etc. along Stanford Lane, the River Ivel including the old Navigation canal and Clifton Bury. Meet in the church yard, TL166392, SG17 5EL.

Leaders: Peter Topley and Alan Outen.

WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST, SHUTTLEWORTH 10am (F)

Visit Swiss Garden for their Invertebrate Walk Day, a joint meeting with the Bedfordshire Invertebrate Group (BIG). Walks through the grounds, insect recording activities and nature table display. Please book with Alan Outen to reserve your place: alanouten@virginmedia.com

01462 811374. Entrance fee will be waived for members that enter with the group at 10:00 prompt. Meet in car park, TL150448, SG18 9EP. Leader: Alan Outen.

WEDNESDAY 23rd AUGUST, HARROLD 10:30am (F) (L)

Walk around Harrold-Odell Country Park. You can picnic in the outdoor classroom but the café gets extremely busy. Book a table or a takeaway before you arrive. Direct line 01234 721525. Meet at the visitor centre car park entrance, SP956566, MK43 7DS.

Leaders: Janet Munro and Sheila Brooke.

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER, ASHRIDGE 10:30am (F)

Walk in Ashridge Commons and Woods SSSI looking at the landscape changes, commons and chalk grasslands. Meet outside the Brownlow café, SP970130, HP4 1LX.

Leader: Sheila Brooke.

SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER, MAULDEN 9:30am-12 noon (F)

Visit Duck End NR for Small Mammal Trapping (mice, voles and shrews). Limited parking at the site in Moor Lane, Maulden, TL051374, MK45 2DJ.

Leader: Mick McCarrick.

TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER, MAULDEN 8pm

Talk "Are Latin Names a Joke?" by Alan Outen, a long standing and enthusiastic BNHS member and a mine of information about all aspects of natural history. He will be giving us a look at some of the humour that has been incorporated into scientific nomenclature from Linnaeus to the present day. Hopefully fun rather than intimidating.

RECORDERS

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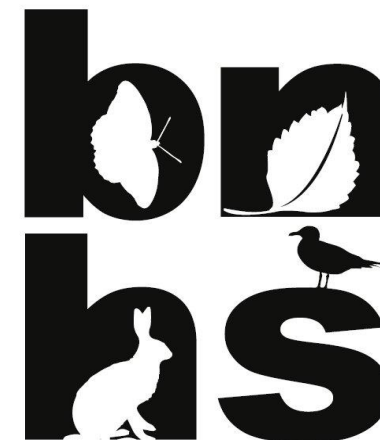
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Exploring Bedfordshire's Wildlife



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