



Wild About Beds

October 2023



A few of the 20 Badgers seen by BNHS members on one of our summer outings, photographed by Sheila Brooke,. See Summer Meetings Highlights.

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Wild About Beds is the newsletter of:



The Bedfordshire Natural History Society
www.bnhs.org.uk
Registered charity number 268659



BedsLife
www.bedsbionet.org.uk

The BNHS

The BNHS was formed in 1946, its main function to record the fauna and flora of the county. It has over twenty active Recorders who cover many branches of natural history study and whose annual reports are published in the *Bedfordshire Naturalist* journal.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, Wild About Beds, and programmes of meetings. These meetings include field meetings to Bedfordshire sites and occasionally farther afield. During the winter months there are illustrated lectures normally held in Maulden; the Christmas Members' Evening is held in Maulden.

The Society depends on annual subscriptions which are devoted to its working, as all offices are honorary. Membership is open to anyone, whether resident in the county or not. If you would like to join the Society, please contact **Kath Hindley**, Honorary Membership Secretary, Tel: 01525 841256, email membership@bnhs.org.uk.

BedsLife

BedsLife - Bedfordshire & Luton Biodiversity Partnership is a consortium of government and non-governmental agencies dedicated to promoting the maintenance and enhancement of Bedfordshire's biodiversity. The Partnership oversees the implementation and monitoring of the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan, which can be found online at www.bedsbionet.org.uk.

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Email: newsletter@bnhs.org.uk.

Your comments/notes on anything that you have observed in the field, on the road or in a past Wild About Beds issue are welcome/essential for continuity. Please do send articles to me either as an attachment via email or through the post. Pictures are always welcome; material required by **15 December 2023** please.

Thank you in anticipation.

The next Wild About Beds will be published in **January 2024**. Please note that any views are independent of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society and BedsLife.

Notes from the Editor

The BNHS is still in need of a Chair to replace Graham Bellamy who performed the task so conscientiously for three years. This is a very fulfilling leadership role for someone who will chair the meetings of the Council and the Annual General Meeting and be a trustee of the Society. If you are interested in this role, please contact Ann de Winter dewinterann1@gmail.com.

Some of the amazing work that our members do could be better publicised than it is at present. We are therefore looking for a Publicity Officer to blow the BNHS trumpet. If you are interested and have ideas how we might do this, please contact me at newsletter@bnhs.org.uk

Nick

Narrow-lipped Helleborines - a newly discovered orchid species for Bedfordshire

Richard and Geraldine Hogg

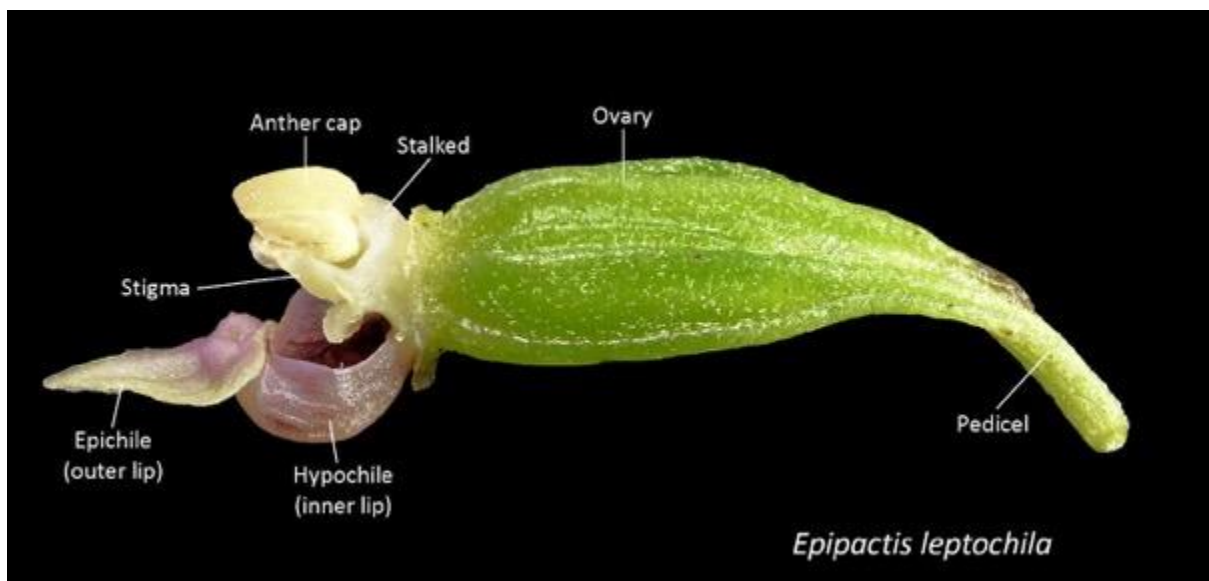


In 2022 the authors visited a wood in central Bedfordshire to have a look at the Violet Helleborines (*Epipactis purpurata*) which were in flower. Nearby there were a few orchids which were assumed to be Broad-leaved Helleborines (*Epipactis helleborine*), but it was noticed that the leaf arrangement on the stems was uncharacteristic, with the leaves arranged alternately up the stem. As the flowers had dried out and turned brown, it was impossible to identify the species.



Close-up of a Narrow-lipped Helleborine flower

Almost a year later in mid-July 2023, similar plants were found by the authors, including three close-together flowering stems. The plants showed some interesting features indicative of Narrow-lipped Helleborine (*Epipactis leptochila*), a nationally scarce orchid, which has been recorded in other nearby counties along the Chilterns, including Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The flowers had a narrow pointed outer-lip (the epichile), coloured green and pink. Most of the flowers were drooping much like a Green-flowered Helleborine (*Epipactis phyllanthes*). However, the colour at the back of the hypochile (the cup part of the flower and the inner part of the lip) was red, unlike Green-flowered Helleborines where it is green.



Annotated photo of one of the Narrow-lipped Helleborine flowers, with the petals and sepals removed. Note the short stalk to the anther cap.



The stem, with the nodding flowers and buds.

The only record of Narrow-lipped Helleborines in Bedfordshire, was reported by Dony (1947) from Blackgrove Wood, Tilsworth, but this was found to be erroneous and he mentions this in his book *The Flora of Bedfordshire* a few years later in 1953.

News of the possibility of Narrow-lipped Helleborines in Bedfordshire was passed on to other BNHS orchid enthusiasts and experts, and a visit was arranged to the wood to have a closer look at the orchid. This was attended by Richard Revels, Graham & Pat Bellamy, Rosie Brind, Stan Saunders, and Richard & Geraldine. The visit commenced with a look at the Violet Helleborine plants that had a total of 21 stems, one or two of them starting to flower.

There were a few other helleborines close-by with eaten stems, or browned stem tops. One very tall plant was seen but this was still in bud. The focus of the visit was on the three flowering stems which were in the shade beneath beech trees, with very little other vegetation around them. All three stems had small flowers which did not open widely, with many already pollinated. It is known that Narrow-lipped Helleborines are usually self-pollinated (autogamous), and the flowering period is short. Many photographs were taken, and the plant stems and leaves were measured.

The petals and sepals were stripped back on one flower to expose the anther and its connection to the ovary. A few close-up photographs were then taken of the stripped-down flower, and it was found that the anther was stalked, another diagnostic feature of Narrow-lipped Helleborines, and therefore not a Broad-leaved Helleborine which is unstalked (see Cole & Waller 2020).

The helleborines in the wood grow in a soil with underlying Chalky Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey (BGS) Oadby Member. See Barron et al. 2010). The clay is a glacial till deposit, and is very variable in composition with abundant clasts of chalk, limestone, and

other rock types. Typically, Narrow-lipped Helleborines are found on chalk or limestone soils underneath beech trees.

The gathered information, and some of the authors' photographs, were sent off to Prof. Richard Bateman at Kew. His response was:

"I think that your suspicions are well-founded; you do indeed appear to have found the first occurrence of *Epipactis leptochila* in Bedfordshire. Obviously, the boulder clay soil raises an eyebrow, but the beech tree fits (the orchid and tree share mycorrhizal fungi). When examining the flowers I worried that that this might be yet another Beds site for *E. phyllanthes*, but as soon as I saw the more distant images of the plants I could rule out that possibility. The lip shape, colour, posture of the flowers, and vegetative characters are all consistent with *leptochila* (though I'd tend to view this occurrence as being three plants rather than one, while recognising that the three stems might originally have shared the same rhizome). My congratulations, especially as it is my perception that *leptochila* is generally declining." [Richard Bateman also notes in a later Email, that the new UK plant atlas does indeed label *Epipactis leptochila* as rapidly declining post-1987.]

After Richard Bateman's confirmation of the species, further visits were made to the wood. More photographs were taken to show further features of the plants. A total of nine Narrow-lipped Helleborine stems were counted. Five had flowers (one with a partially eaten top), two had browned stem tops, and the other two had their stem tops eaten, probably by deer. The very tall plant that had been seen in bud in late July, was in flower in early August, and was confirmed to be a Narrow-lipped Helleborine. This was a slender plant with five leaves, 18 flowers/buds, and was 58cm high.

Other diagnostic features that distinguished these plants from Broad-leaved Helleborines included: pale-green stems; the colour at the base of the ovary where it joins the stem is green (for Broad-leaved Helleborines it is pinkish or purplish); the leaves were all longer than wide (for Broad-leaved Helleborines the leaves are often as wide as long). A viscidium, a sticky blob that holds the pollinia in place, was not seen on any of the newly opened flowers. On Narrow-lipped Helleborines the viscidium is usually absent, and with no viscidium the pollen falls on to the stigma and the plant is thus self-pollinated. Whereas on Broad-leaved Helleborines a viscidium is present on the flowers, until it sticks to a pollinating insect along with the pollinia.

Also of note, is that the bottom-most leaf on each stem was always the smallest, and some of the upper leaves were long and narrow, and very bract-like. The nine stems had either 3, 4 or 5 leaves.

The Narrow-lipped Helleborines are certainly a most welcome find and addition to Bedfordshire's flora, given that the 2023-2024 orchid survey is now well and truly underway.

Thanks go to Prof. Richard Bateman for confirming that the plants were Narrow-lipped Helleborines, and to Graham Bellamy and Richard Revels for their advice and knowledge.

References:

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- Cole, S., Waller, M., 2020. *Britain's Orchids: A field guide to the orchids of Great Britain and Ireland*, Princeton University Press.
- Dony, J. G. 1947. In the Report for 1945. *The Botanical Society Exchange Club of the British Isles*. Vol. XIII Part 1, p. 68.
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Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve to be open in 2024

Jon Balaam

Just to the south of Clophill lies the 118ha site of a former fuller's earth works. Quarrying took place in the latter part of the 20th century and ceased in about 2000. The restoration of the site resulted in a variety of habitats – two large lakes, smaller ponds, grassland and young woodland, much of which has been recognized as a County Wildlife Site.

In 2017 planning permission was granted to the then owners of the site, L&Q Estates, for a development of 50 houses on the edge of Clophill, with the remainder of the site to be handed over to a suitable organisation to develop as a nature reserve. The Greensand Trust, a local independent environmental charity, was chosen to own and manage the reserve. The land was finally transferred to the Trust in February 2022, and since then they have been working hard to meet the planning conditions necessary to establish and open the site, and carry out survey work to begin to build up a picture of the site's wildlife.

In the early years of quarrying and restoration, the site was much more open than it is today and partly visible to birders from the adjacent footpath. Local birder Pete Soper, who some of you will remember, also had a permit to access the site. In the early 2000s there are records of passage waders such as Dunlin, Redshank, Greenshank and Grey Plover and, more recently, there have been occasional winter records of Bean, White-fronted and Pink-footed geese being observed amongst the resident Greylag and Canada geese.

Although the site has grown up considerably in the last 20 years it still has much interest, and potential, for birds. Sand Martins nest in banks on one of the islands and a pair of Oystercatchers tried to breed this year, however sadly crows took the eggs. A Grasshopper Warbler was heard reeling in the spring – and Cuckoos have been regularly heard and seen this year. The large areas of ex-arable land which are now developing as rough grassland

have good populations of Skylarks and Meadow Pipits. Other species recorded so far include Water Rail, Common Sandpiper, Snipe and Kingfisher.

The variety of habitats present, from very dry lichen heath to open water, reeds and wet woodland mean that there is a wide range of species present. Mare's-tail, an uncommon aquatic plant, is present in the lakes and a Green-winged Orchid was spotted for the first time this year. The site is of county importance for dragonflies and damselflies – baseline surveys recorded 19 species on site. 22 butterfly species have been recorded in the last couple of years including, last year, Dingy Skipper. Otter spraint is regularly found and a mother and well grown cub were seen earlier this year. As well as wildlife interest the reserve also includes the Cainhoe Castle Schedule Monument – the earthworks of a Norman motte and bailey castle and later medieval manor.

The main establishment works required to bring the site into a state of readiness for opening to the public as a nature reserve will be taking place over the next few months, beginning in earnest once the bird breeding season is over. It is anticipated that the site will be opened to the public in the spring of 2024.

The Greensand Trust is continuing to raise funds for a range of conservation and access projects, including bird hides, boardwalks, dipping platforms, sand martin nest bank and remote wildlife cameras, and has a funding appeal running to support this: [Clophill Lakes Appeal | The Greensand Trust](#)

An even more ambitious project is the potential creation of an Osprey nesting platform – further investigation is required as to whether the two large lakes contain sufficient fish stocks to support a nesting pair, and whether this would be sustainable into the future. And in the longer-term, Clophill Lakes is well positioned to link to other wetland sites in the Flit Valley. With the Trust's Sandy Smith Nature Reserve just over half a kilometre away, the opportunity to contribute to true nature recovery at a landscape scale will be a real possibility.

Summer Field Meetings Highlights

Saturday June 17th Wadelows

A small but enthusiastic group met at Wadelows NR on Saturday, a pleasant and peaceful site behind Poplars Garden Centre. Our hosts John & Bridget mowed an area for us to park adjacent to the meadow where we could also picnic. It was a very hot day with not much flying but we all enjoyed meeting up, having a chat and also looking for signs of life! Apart from one species of grass bug which was abundant in the meadow, species numbers were low but we saw and heard a good range (my first Meadow Brown sighting!). We were wilting by 2.30 and headed home after a very enjoyable morning! I will send a list to John with our thanks. *Sheila Brooke*

Tuesday June 20th Sandy Smith

It was great to see 23 people at the lovely Sandy Smith Reserve on Tuesday, thank you to Stefan for leading us. Thanks also to the other experts in our number who identified moths, butterflies and orchids. It was an absolutely beautiful evening and we saw a total of 41 species including the Little Owl(s) which were very active but reappeared regularly enough for everyone who wanted to see them. We also heard a Tawny Owl but didn't manage to see the Barn Owl on this occasion. Butterflies, moths, dragonflies and damselflies and orchids were in evidence but the highlight from other taxa was the hatch of Scarlet Tiger Moths by the small river bridge. *Kathy Blackmore*

Saturday July 1st Maulden Village

The BNHS were delighted to support Maulden Village Fete on Saturday. Six worthy members showed off our display in a prime position in the hall. There was a lot of interest so they were kept busy chatting to visitors, sharing tea, coffee and cake in between selling a couple of our books and encouraging people to sign up to our Facebook page or even become Society members. *Julia Powell*

Wednesday July 12th Strawberry Hill Farm

Chantelle Warriner and Gwen Hitchcock from WTBCN led a large group of 20 BNHS members on a lovely morning walk around the newly acquired Strawberry Hill Farm. There is a lot of potential at this huge site (150 hectares) of which we were only able to see a small part. At one point we arrived at the edge of the property and could see what it would have looked like about 25 years ago when it was a working farm. At present WTBCN is assessing the extent of the wildlife present and welcoming specialist groups to survey various aspects to develop the management plan. *Julia Powell*

Monday July 24th St Neot's Riverside Park



Female Blue-tailed Damselfly (Photograph by Rory Morrissey)

Four of us braved the elements on a very wet morning (and evaded the roadworks that closed Barford Road) to meet at the Conygeare car park. As it was raining, the only obvious option was the café to wait for a dry spell, where Mike was able to glean some expert advice about Dragonflies and Damselflies from Rory and John. Back at the start we soon found Willow Emerald and Blue-tailed Damselfly and had the opportunity to discuss how to distinguish male from female of the latter. Not much was flying, but the hoverflies *Myathropa florea* and *Episyrphus balteatus* put in an appearance, plus some bugs and beetles. Moving over to the River Great Ouse with the sun coming out, we found a single male Red-eyed Damselfly on a lily leaf and were visited by Red Admiral and Peacock butterflies. We had a good chat and three of us again made use of the café for lunch, a pleasant end to the foray. *Rory Morrissey and Mike Hammond*

Wednesday August 9th Harrold-Odell

Bedfordshire Geology group invited us to join them on a walk so it was arranged that we would meet in the car park at Harrold Odell Country Park. Due to local road closures, we were slightly delayed starting off although it gave Derek Turner an opportunity outline of the

route we would be taking. Having been joined by a couple of members of the Geology group, 14 of us set off to leave the Country Park, cross the historic bridge of the River Great Ouse with a lot of care and climb the hill opposite to St Nicolas Church, Chellington with a view across the flood plain. We then descended to Harrold Village looking for examples of “Oolite” rock which is the oldest in the county. We inspected the exterior of St Peter’s Church and finished at the Harrold Lockup. Sadly no longer in use!!! *Julia Powell*

Monday 14th August, Totternhoe

We returned to Totternhoe in more clement weather than last time to see how the Butterfly Banks have matured. Matt Hayes, a Cambridge University post graduate researcher, gave us an informal review of some of the data already obtained. For example, during the very hot weather last summer it was noticeable that the local butterflies preferred the shady aspects of the banks. We saw the data loggers that are used to measure the temperature at various places over the site which include the sunny and shade aspects of the banks at all points of the compass, the bare ground surrounding the banks and similar data from control areas nearby. He has collected a lot of data to evaluate over the winter and he has been invited to give us a formal presentation of the research at one of the BNHS talks in 2024. *Julia Powell*

Thursday 31st August Tewin

Ten members enjoyed an evening Badger watching from the Mammal Hide in Tewin Orchard, run by the Herts & Middx WT. On arrival at the hide there was one badger foraging in front of the hide, which had glass along its length, and gradually more and more appeared to make the most of the offerings of apples and other tempting edibles put there by the Hon. Warden ensuring that the visitors to the hide had a good experience. We occupied the hide from about 8pm – 9.30pm and we had 20 badgers in view for much of the time. This was exceptional and by 9.30 they had gradually moved away to pastures new and at this quiet time we vacated the hide with lots of non-flash photos feeling we had been very lucky! *Sheila Brooke*

Saturday 2nd September Maulden

A good number of BNHS and Mammal Group members gathered for small mammal trapping at Duck End Nature Reserve, ked by Mick McCarrick. Although small, this is a lovely reserve which has yielded many interesting species of flora and fauna. Mick, Ken and John put 20 traps out on the previous Thursday afternoon to get the animals familiar with them, and returned on Friday evening to bait and set them.



Bank Vole



Wood Mouse (Photographs by Merv de Winter)

We were pleased to see most of the traps had mammals in them with only 6 being completely empty. We had Bank Voles and Wood Mice – no shrews which was a shame, but the children present loved seeing the very lively animals! All were safely released after we

had enjoyed having good views of them. They were six Bank Voles (four females and two males) and eight Wood Mice (four females, three males and one that escaped before being sexed).



There were also several Common Lizards in There a pile of brash which gave good photo opportunities as shown by this one by Merv de Winter.

Some of us stayed on for a short while as Rory Morrissey led us round the ponds looking for damselflies and dragonflies. There weren't too many in evidence, but we did see Southern Hawkers, Ruddy Darters and the rather elusive Willow Emerald. Rory pointed out the egg-laying scars on low willow branches, but it was a challenge for the rest of us to see these!

Ann de Winter

Winter 2023 Programme

SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER LUTON 10:30am

Walk in Stockgrove Park which was originally the estate and grounds to Stockwood House. Many of the original features are still visible and the park still contains some impressive veteran trees, including cedar, oak and sweet chestnut, some of which date back to the 18th Century. It is adjacent to Kidney Wood which is a small bluebell wood, with the remains of an ancient wood-bank as well as some old hazel stools and evidence of hornbeam coppicing. Please book your place with Julia Powell at JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com or 01582 661328.

Please meet in the car park near the entrance to the Stockgrove Discovery Centre. This has toilets and a café which opens at 11am, post code LU1 4LX, grid reference TL087197. Leader: Sam Mostyn-Willis works for Luton's Parks & Countryside Services as the Horticultural Coordinator, working with volunteer groups across the council's greenspace sites as well as a casual employee of the Wildlife Trust.

TUESDAY 17th OCTOBER MAULDEN 8pm

Our first talk of winter is in Maulden Village Hall.

Wildlife in Greece by Alice Hunter

Greece may be a familiar destination for many, with thoughts of beach holidays and pool-side retreats springing to mind. There's more to this Mediterranean haven than meets the eye though and, in this talk, Alice will share some of the wonderful species that make up the rich tapestry of Greek flora and fauna, along with a few of the spectacular landscapes they grace.

About Alice: She is a freelance wildlife photographer and guide with a lifelong passion for the natural world in all its guises. Born and raised in Herefordshire she is now based in the flat fenlands of Cambridgeshire but travels widely with her work.

SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER MARSTON MORETAINE

Details of the BNHS Conference will be circulated to all members separately.

SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER LUTON 10am note time

Stockwood Park fungus foray joint with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Fungus Group.

Please book your place with Julia Powell at JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com or 01582 661328.

A late autumn visit to this Greensand Ridge site, which can usually be relied upon to offer us the Herald of Winter (*Hygrophorus hypothejus*). Meet in the car park at Stockgrove Country Park off to the southwest of Brickhill Road which runs between Heath & Reach and Great Brickhill. Grid ref: SP920293, LU7 0BA. There is a visitors' centre, café and toilets. The car park now has a number plate recognition system. Charges last year were £4 for up to 3 hours, £6 for longer. See <https://www.greensandtrust.org/parking-at-rushmere> - look at the info about the Stockgrove car park, NOT the Main car park.

Leaders: Pat & Keith Cavanagh

TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER MAULDEN 8pm

Talk at Maulden Village Hall by Mark Avery entitled "Nature Conservation Today".

Dr Mark Avery is a senior UK conservationist with nearly four decades' experience of giving wildlife a better future. The author of numerous previous books, including *Inglorious: Conflict in the Uplands* (2015), Mark worked for the RSPB for 25 years before going freelance in 2011.

He is well known figure in the conservation world and although we have no details of his talk, no doubt he will mention his recently published book "Reflections: What wildlife needs and how to provide it". He will be bringing some copies with him, so please remember to bring some money if you think you would like to buy one.

TUESDAY 26th DECEMBER, WOBURN 9:30am

Boxing Day Walk through Woburn Park. Please book with Julia Powell on

JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com or 01582 661328. Meet at the Woburn Village car park, opposite the church in Park Street, post code MK17 9PG, Grid Ref SP950331.

Leader: Julia Powell.

WANTED – EVENT ORGANISERS

For the last ten years the events have been organised by Julia Powell and Sheila Brooke, but they will be standing down at the BNHS AGM in March 2024. It is, however, a job that can be split up and shared between different people as happens with the Beds Bird Club. Here they explain what is involved in organizing events, a task best done by a team rather than just one person.

Indoor meetings are held throughout the winter months (October – April) on the third Tuesday of the month. Speakers are not required in December when there is a members' evening or March when we have our AGM. Indoor meetings are currently held at Maulden Village Hall, but since Covid a number have been presented on Zoom, especially when the weather is uninviting – December, January and February at present.

We have sourced speakers in various ways – by word of mouth, from other natural history organisations, local people involved with the Greensand Trust, WLTBCN, RSPB, people we know who could offer an interesting subject, or one of our own members. Occasionally a speaker contacts us with a new talk or author with a new book. Zoom presentations have allowed us to engage speakers from further field. We have embraced a range of topics covering many aspects of natural history except birds as there is a separate programme run by the Bird Club.

Payments for the hire of Maulden Village Hall and, when required, for speakers' fees and expenses. Speakers from local university departments and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology rarely charge as this is deemed part of their remit to educate the public.

Field Meetings are held throughout the year but with fewer during the winter months. We have aimed for at least two each month during the better weather and to spread the venues over a large part of the county so that members feel that there is an event near where they live. We have tried to cover different interest groups and the Recorders and associated BNHS groups have been very helpful.

Some meetings that are repeated each year such as pond-dipping somewhere, Boxing Day walk at Woburn Abbey, the small mammal trapping and dragonfly walk at Duck End, Maulden and a bird walk with Beds Bird Club. We sometimes have joint meetings with other groups such as the BNHS Bird Club, the Wildlife Trust, Greensand Trust, the local Butterfly Conservation group and local Fungus or Geology groups. We liaise with Beds Invertebrate Group (BIG) over dates. Meetings may be at weekends or on weekdays and some may be in the evening. Members quite often suggest possible sites or aims for the walk such as a butterfly walk. Sometimes these come as a result of a talk during the winter. Walks associated with projects taken on by the BNHS such as the Flora Guardians may suggest a theme for walks as was the case when Wild Orchids of Bedfordshire was being researched and after its publication.

Information about each meeting must be sent to the webmaster and BNHS members in advance and this is achieved now by email. Prior to each meeting members are notified by email and may be asked to book in with one of the event organisers.

Although it is possible for one person to organise the field meetings (as was the situation when we succeeded Peter Glenister) it is much easier with more people. Another task that might be done by a different person is to write up a brief report of meetings for the newsletter, *Wild about Beds*. Lots of members take photos or keep lists of what is

found at the field meetings and we have asked these people to write a couple of sentences to be sent to us with any suitable photos which Julia collates into an article for WAB.

Outside events. The Society is invited to have a stand at events run by other wildlife orientated groups throughout the year. Various members house a gazebo, tables, display boards and a mass of artifacts for the nature table which are used to put on our display. When an invitation is received, volunteers are coordinated to bring usually just the display boards and Nature Table to the event. Primarily the aim is to highlight the society to the public and encourage new members. But it is always an interesting day out with a chance to get to know other members, talk to the public and interact with other organisations there. We have made lots of contacts, had lots of ideas for walks and talks and made many friends this way.

Again this does not have to be carried by the same people as those organising indoor meetings or field trips although coordination between these activities is essential.

Sheila and Julia are more than willing to discuss any aspect of this as we wish that these type of events may still continue.

Letter

Dear Colin*

Thank you for the Society's kind donation of £34.00 from the Elm identification day on 29 July 2023. I really enjoyed the workshop, and it was good to meet old friends and new from the BNHS membership. Hopefully, it will stimulate recording of elms in the county. I know that you are aware that such donations allows us to continue our vital everyday work, including surveying local wildlife, working with planners to defend the best wildlife sites from damaging development, and maintaining and improving woodlands, meadows, heathland, and other habitats on more than 100 nature reserves. Please do share this letter with members of the Society. Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Brian Eversham
Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Trust BCN

*Colin de Boutillier, BNHS Treasurer

Changes to County Recorders

Recently Roy Bates retired from his position as Fish Recorder, a role he has held for many years. BNHS would like to thank Roy for his work and wishes him well for the future. We have appointed Jon Balaam as the new Fish Recorder, so please send any fish records to him going forward. Thanks go to Jon for volunteering to take on this role.

BNHS is looking for a new Meteorology Recorder and a new Crustacea Recorder as Angela Bucknall and Graham Bellamy have both retired from these roles. BNHS would like to thank them both for their work as Recorders over many years.

If you are interested in volunteering for either role, please let me know.

Helen Muir-Howie

Hon Secretary for the Scientific Committee

Freshwater Invertebrates in Beds

Bedfordshire Natural History Society Conference

Saturday 11 November 2023

10:00 to 16:30



Peter Sutton

Aquatic bugs

Kevin Rowley

Aquatic Beetles



Nina Birkby

Aquatic Crustacea

Steve Cham

Dragonflies and damselflies



Peter Topley

Freshwater molluscs

Steve Brooks

Mayflies and stoneflies



Thomas Dallimore

Mosquitoes

The Forest Centre, Millennium Country Park, Marston Moretaine, MK43 0PR

Tickets: £20 for BNHS/Bird Club members, £25 for non-members.

Includes all refreshments and cold buffet lunch. Free parking.

Please book online at www.bnhs.org.uk