

WEST OXFORDSHIRE FIELD CLUB – WINTER PROGRAMME 2022-23

INDOOR MEETINGS are held in the High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Use rear entrance; parking in Woolgate (Waitrose) car park.

OCTOBER 2022

Friday 7th 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING Timothy Walker, former director Oxford University Botanic Gardens: 'Sex, Lies and Putrefaction'.

Sunday 16th 11am FUNGUS FORAY at SNELSMORE COMMON BBOWT reserve. Walk of about two hours to look for heathland and other fungi. The terrain is mostly flat though rough in places. Meet in the reserve car park off the B4494 Wantage to Newbury road. **Map ref SU463710** RG14 3BQ
Leader Peter Creed.

Friday 21st 2-5:30pm OPEN AFTERNOON AT THENFORD ARBORETUM, near Banbury. Spread over 70 acres, the arboretum features 3000 or more different trees and shrubs and includes extensive herbaceous borders. If members want to visit, book individually via the arboretum's website, which also gives directions. Tickets can be purchased online at £16.00 each; refreshments available, paid for separately.

NOVEMBER

Friday 4th 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING Fergus Mosey, warden at RSPB Otmoor: 'Otmoor RSPB reserve through the seasons, with updates'

Sunday 20th 11am GRAVEYARD GEOLOGY WALK at St Sepulchre's Cemetery in Jericho. Details **TBC**
Leaders Nina Morgan and Philip Powell

DECEMBER

Friday 2nd 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING Mike Wallen, Bucks Bird Recorder and volunteer on Skomer Island for 36 years: 'Skomer Island'

Saturday 10th 12:30 for 1pm. CHRISTMAS LUNCH at Shilton Village Hall. £15 per person. Soft drinks will be supplied; please bring your own wine. *Bookings and enquiries re dietary requirements to David Roberts 01993 841194. Early booking essential; please pay the Treasurer by Friday 18th November.*

Sunday 11th 11am BIRDWATCHING AT STANDLAKE 'Pit 60', an old gravel pit managed by LWVP. Two hides. Good for wintering wildfowl. Park and meet in High Street, Standlake near Black Horse

pub, just off A415. About 1 km (20 minutes) walk to reserve; can be very muddy.

Map ref SP394028 OX29 7RT

Leaders Sue Morton and John Cobb

JANUARY 2023

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2023 due by 31st January.

The treasurer will circulate a reminder and bank details, or a form if you are paying by cheque.

Sunday 8th 11am BIRDWATCHING AT SLIMBRIDGE WILDFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST. Meet at 11am in the car park; if arriving later, meet in the cafe around 1pm. Tickets bookable online; adults £15.00 (including gift aid), concessions £12.72. Free to WWT members with card. It may be possible to hire binoculars.
Postcode GL2 7BT

Friday 13th 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING – MEMBERS' NIGHT (non-members equally welcome). Bring items/photographs for identification or general interest. If you wish to show any pictures, please bring them on memory sticks and notify John Cobb in advance.

FEBRUARY

Friday 3rd 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING Lisa Lane, leader of a seventeen-year project to transform farmland at Chimney into a 308-hectare BBOWT Nature Reserve: 'Wetland Restoration at Chimney Meadows NNR'

Friday 17th 4pm OXFORD UNIVERSITY HERBARIA
Professor Stephen Harris will guide us around the preserved plant collections. Park and ride or public transport advised.
Numbers limited to 10. Please book with Julia Reid. Details will be sent to people attending.

MARCH

Friday 3rd 7:15 for 7:30pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by a talk by Andy Lewis of Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society: 'Down the Windrush Valley'

Date and time to be confirmed. EVENLODE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP: A visit to the Bruern Estate to learn about the

five-year 'slow the flow' flood reduction project. This is combined with delivering multiple ecosystem benefits, including extensive wet-woodland creation and wildflower planting.

APRIL

Friday 14th 7:15 for 7:30 INDOOR MEETING Martin Catt, An all-round naturalist, tour leader and Club member: 'British and European Butterflies'

Sunday 23rd 4pm: APPLETON LOWER COMMON

A walk of a couple of miles to look for Town Hall Clocks and other Spring flowers, and to see/hear early summer migrants. Limited parking in layby on north side of minor road between A415 and Appleton. Can be very muddy if wet so appropriate footwear necessary; two stiles. **Map ref SP425001** OX13 5QN
Leaders John Cobb and Sue Morton

MAY

Friday 5th 7:15 for 7:30 INDOOR MEETING Helen Mugridge ARPS, much-travelled wildlife photographer from the Forest of Dean 'Ecuador -The Andes to the Amazon' and ANNUAL PLANT SALE in aid of Club funds.

Sunday 7th 4am DAWN CHORUS

Worth the early start to hear the birds wake up, hope to hear 40 to 50 species. Meeting place to be confirmed.
Leader Adrian State.

Monday 15th 10am CHIMNEY MEADOWS RESTORATION PROJECT
Rescheduled from summer 2022. A walk of 2 - 3 hours led by Lisa Lane of BBOWT to learn about the recently restored Wetland Restoration Project. Park at Chimney Meadows office car park, about half a mile from the public car park. **Numbers limited to 15.** Please book with Julia Reid.
Map ref: SP354013 OX18 2EH

It is very helpful to let Julia Reid know if you intend to come on a walk. **Booking is essential, however, for events where numbers are limited.** Also let Julia know if you need a lift.
Contact: Julia_d_reid@yahoo.com or 07703 522309

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the walks and updates to the programme visit **www.thefieldclub.org.uk**.