

WEST OXFORDSHIRE FIELD CLUB – SUMMER PROGRAMME 2024

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

MAY

Friday 3rd 7:15 for 7:30 INDOOR MEETING

Adrian State 'Barn owls'
and ANNUAL PLANT SALE in aid of Club funds.

Sunday 5th 4am DAWN CHORUS RUSHY COMMON

Worth the early start to hear the birds wake up, hope for 40 – 50 species. Terrain flat. Bring a torch, wrap up very warm, boots or Wellies. Meet Rushy Common car park off Cogges – Stanton Harcourt road **Map ref: SP381073** OX29 5AN Leader Adrian State

Friday 17th to Monday 20th ELAN VALLEY LONG WEEKEND

Primarily birdwatching. Fully booked.

JUNE

Monday 3rd 10am GIBSONS ORGANIC FRUIT FARM

Walk to learn about and discuss conservation activities.
The Stables, Westwell near Burford.
Map ref: SP222099 OX18 4JT

Sunday 9th 10am HACKPEN HILL AND CROWHOLE BOTTOM

Visit to coincide with the flowering of Early Gentian, for which the site is a SAC. Chalk flora with orchids, excellent for invertebrates, particularly butterflies. *Very steep slopes and uneven ground - suitable footwear essential.* Meet near Sparsholt Firs, where Ridgeway crosses the B4001 Wantage to Lambourn road at top of Sincombe Hill. **Map ref: SU343850** Leader Kathy Warden

Saturday 15th 8 - 10pm NIGHTJARS AT GREENHAM COMMON

Travel through Newbury on the A339 after crossing the Kennet and Avon Canal, turn left at 3rd roundabout towards Greenham on Pinchington Lane. Cross the 2nd mini roundabout (Tesco's on R), over the 3rd mini roundabout (Hansoms Drive on L). The Pyle Hill car park is in trees on the right opposite the top of Greenham Rd. *NB A warm dry evening required so the date may change at short notice.* **Map ref: SU 484653** RG19 8BX Leader David Rolfe

Sunday 23rd 6pm EVENING WALK AT CHADLINGTON

Walk of about 2.5 miles north along Green Lane to look for calcareous grassland plants; option of a longer circular walk. Park where the track starts by the bowls club. **Map ref: SP332222** OX7 3LY Leader Brenda Betteridge

JULY

Sunday 7th 9am—12 noon MOTH MORNING

Meet the moths from three traps set up in a private garden in Shilton. The event will be rescheduled if the overnight weather forecast is poor. **Numbers limited to 15; please book with Julia Reid.** Directions will be emailed to people coming.

Thursday 11th 7:30pm GLOWWORMS

Walk of 2 – 3 miles around Swinbrook near Burford followed by a hunt for glowworms. Possibility of bats. For those not wishing to do the walk meet at 10:30pm in Swinbrook churchyard. Park near phone box or grass area behind church. **Map ref: SP280121** OX18 4DY Leader Sue Morton

Thursday 18th 11.00am BUTTERFLIES AT DANEWAY BANKS

This Gloucs WT reserve is prime limestone grassland, home to a variety of butterflies including Large Blue. Way-marked path, steep slopes. Option to visit Siccaridge Wood Reserve in afternoon. Park at the Daneway Inn (about 20 spaces), half a mile west of Sapperton. **Map ref: SO936034** GL7 6LN Leader Roger Newman **Numbers capped at 20 so please let Julia know if you would like to come; car sharing strongly advised.**

AUGUST

Thursday 8th 2pm WHITECROSS GREEN WOOD

A 2.5 mile walk in an ancient woodland five miles south of Bicester. Hope to see many butterflies, even Purple Emperors. Mainly flat, bumpy paths. Parking available. Details nearer the time. **Map ref SP 600150** OX5 2RF

Saturday 10th 12.30 for 1pm LUNCH PARTY AT SHILTON

£16.00 per person. **Please book with Maggie Collins by 20 July.**

Sunday 25th 11am PARSONAGE MOOR

Fen with rich flora, including uncommon rushes and mosses, and insectivorous species such as Butterwort; Grass of Parnassus should be in flower. Good for insects, including soldier flies such as the Clubbed General and Silver Colonel. Park at Dry Sandford Pit reserve car park, walk west to Cothill village and take the footpath on the right (String Lane), opposite the Merry Miller pub for 0.25 miles. Can be wet underfoot. **Map ref: SU 461997** OX13 6JW Leader Peter Creed

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 15th 2pm ASTHALL CIRCULAR WALK

About two miles to look for autumn gentians and other plants, insects and birds. The gentian site is very steep but not obligatory. Park by side of road under avenue of trees leading to Asthall Manor. **Map ref: SP288112** OX18 4HW Leader Maggie Collins

Thursday 26th 11am RSPB NAGSHEAD FOREST OF DEAN

Mature woodland with a variety of birds and wildlife.

Toilets available; no café. **Map ref: SO606084** GL15 4LA

Thursday 26th 3pm BEAVERS IN THE FOREST OF DEAN

Visit the beaver enclosure and see the dams. Park at entrance to the enclosure. Take A4136 from Cinderford down to Brierley. Second right at bottom of the hill to The Pludds, follow for about half a mile to the first pull-in on the left with metal barrier. Drive a further 200m on forest track. Wellies recommended. **Map ref: SO612153** *Detailed map on website.* Leader: Kate Wollen.

OCTOBER

Friday 4th 7:15 for 7:30pm FIRST WINTER INDOOR MEETING

Lesley Wright 'Otters in England'

Sunday 13th 10:30am KINGSWOOD BRAKE

Circular walk of about two miles through woods and open fields for fungi and other wildlife. From the T-junction from Finstock to Charlbury, (B4022), turn right onto B4437 for 3.2 miles towards Woodstock. There is a small lane on the left with a small green footpath sign on the right. Parking for 4-5 cars max so car sharing essential. **Map ref: SP408195** OX20 1HN Leader Julia Reid

NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd - Monday 4th FUNGUS FORAY in the Malvern hills

with Peter Creed. Details to follow.

Members will be notified of further 'pop-up' events by email.

It is 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 552309

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit **www.thefieldclub.org.uk**.