

# WEST OXFORDSHIRE FIELD CLUB – WINTER PROGRAMME 2024-25

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

## OCTOBER 2024

**Friday 4th 7:15 for 7:30pm** INDOOR MEETING  
Lesley Wright: 'Otters in England'

**Sunday 13th 10:30am** KINGSWOOD BRAKE (reminder, details in prior programme)

**Sunday 27th 11am:** THE GEOLOGY OF THE GOLDEN RIDGE, FAR-INGDON. We will be examining the famous Corallian Limestone, which forms the Golden Ridge running west and east through Faringdon. Given a clear day we will also be able to observe how the underlying geology affects the wider landscape. An Oxford Geology Trust leaflet (£2) will be available for those who want to explore more than we have time for on this easy 2 hour walk. Private admission to climb the tower has been arranged (£3, in cash). There are 154 wide steps with resting places. Your efforts will be well worth it! Please bring a hand lens if you have one. Meet at the short stay car park in Faringdon in Southampton Street alongside the empty Bell Hotel. There is ample free parking (and toilets!). **Map Reference: SP289956** SN7 7AZ. Leader: John Baker.

## NOVEMBER

**Friday 1st 7:15 for 7:30pm** INDOOR MEETING  
Nick Johnson: 'The Flora and Fauna of Rwanda'

**Sunday 3rd: 11am.** FUNGUS FORAY IN THE MALVERNS: Hollybush, near Malvern. A chance to see unusual fungi, especially wax cap varieties, not found in Oxfordshire. Meet at Hollybush Church car park area for a walk of about three hours. Terrain sloping in places and could be slippery/muddy. A good idea to bring a packed lunch. Car sharing is strongly advised, given the distance.  
**Map Ref: SO 769368** HR8 1ET. Leader: Peter Creed

## DECEMBER

**Friday 6th 7:15 for 7:30pm** INDOOR MEETING  
Ivor Porter: 'Wild in Britain'

**Saturday 7th December** CHRISTMAS LUNCH 12.30 for 1pm  
Shilton Village Hall. £16 per person. Soft drinks supplied; please bring your own wine. *Early booking essential*, with Maggie Collins by November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Numbers limited to 40

## Sunday 15th 10am

BLLENHEIM WALK  
A safe bet whatever the weather. 2-3 miles, around the lakes where there should be a variety of water fowl. Park in Woodstock car park off Hensington Rd, OX20 1JQ. Walk back to the A44 and turn right. Continue walking slightly downhill and over a bridge until you see a green gate leading into Blenheim on the left. 93, The Causeway. We shall meet there at 10am. Easy walking on tarmac paths. Cafe and toilets available. **Map Ref: SP441171** OX20 1TL. Leader: Julia Reid

## JANUARY 2025

SUBSCRIPTIONS due by 31st January. The treasurer will circulate a reminder and payment details.

**Sunday 12th 11am.** BIRDWATCHING AT FARMOOR RESERVOIR. A 2-3 hour walk around the reservoir which incorporates a variety of habitats. Adequate parking but car sharing is always recommended. There may be a parking charge. Snacks available at Cafe. **Map Reference: SP451067**  
Car Park: OX2 9NS Leader: David Rolfe

**Friday 17th 7:15 for 7:30pm** MEMBERS' NIGHT  
(Non-members equally welcome!) Bring items/photographs for identification or general interest. If you wish to show any pictures or give short talk, please bring them on memory sticks and notify Sue Morton in advance.

## FEBRUARY

**Friday 7th 7:15 for 7:30pm** INDOOR MEETING  
Bob Cowley: 'Tracks and Signs'

**Thursday 13th 1pm** VISIT TO THE ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN OXFORD. A 90 minute guided tour learning about fascinating species of insects. Cost will be £5 per person (cash on the day). Numbers capped at 15. Meet at

the Natural History Museum, Parks Rd at 12.50. Park and Ride strongly advised. Further details nearer the time.

## MARCH

**Sunday, 2nd 10.30am** WALK AROUND SHERBORNE (approximately 2.5 miles) Easy walking on mostly gravelled paths. Hope to see early Spring flowers. Park at Ewe Pen Barn car park (Free to NT members, otherwise £2). **Map Ref: SP158145** GL54 3DT. Leader: Maggie Collins

**Friday 7th 7:15 for 7:30pm** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by Richard Fortey on 'Close Encounters of the Fungal Kind'.

## APRIL

**Friday 4th 7:15 for 7:30pm** INDOOR MEETING  
Neil Clennell: 'The reptiles of the Wychwood Forest and the wider British Isles'

**Sunday 6th 7pm** DUSK WALK AT DEAN PIT to look for great crested newts and other varieties of amphibian. Head to Spelsbury on the B4062 then turn left towards Chadlington. After approx a mile (and before you get to the village), take the track (Grove Lane) on the left till you reach a small parking area. Meet at 7pm. Torches are essential. **Map Ref: SP341214** What3Words secrets.table.eyepieces Leader: Neil Clennell

## MAY

**Friday 2nd 7:15 for 7:30pm** INDOOR MEETING Jessica Bouwer on 'Hedgerows' and ANNUAL PLANT SALE in aid of Club funds.

**Sunday 4th 5am** DAWN CHORUS AT RUSHY COMMON  
Worth the early start to hear the birds wake up, hope to hear 40 to 50 species. Bring a torch, wear suitable footwear and warm clothing. **Map Ref: SP381073** OX29 5AN. Leader: Adrian State

**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](http://www.thefieldclub.org.uk).