

WEST OXFORDSHIRE FIELD CLUB – WINTER PROGRAMME 2025-26

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

OCTOBER 2025

Wednesday 1st October 9:30am VISIT TO OTMOOR.
(see Summer Programme)

Friday 3rd October 7:15 for 7:30pm FIRST INDOOR MEETING
Hugh Warwick: 'Cull of the Wild'

Sunday 19th October 10am: FUNGUS FORAY at Foxholes
Meet at the lay-by on the road outside the BBOWT reserve near Bruern. There is a short walk to the reserve which can get very wet, so bring suitable footwear. Bring a hand lens if you have one.
Map Ref: SP259208. OX7 6RW Leader: Peter Creed

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday 2nd November GEOLOGY WALK. Geology of Cretaceous Ridge South of Woolstone near Uffington. Climb the geological column to see how underlying rocks and the Ice Age have affected the scenery, especially of Manger & Dragons Hill
Leader: John Baker *[other details to be confirmed]*

Friday 7th November, 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING
Catriona Bass: 'Connecting Communities, Connecting Landscapes'

DECEMBER 2025

Friday 5th December, 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING
Martin Lane: 'Lower Windrush Valley Project'

Saturday 6th December, 10:30am NEW COMMUNITY PATH IN THE BLENHEIM ESTATE. A beautiful walk of 2 miles each way, from Bladon to Long Hanborough and back. The terrain is flat with a gravel path. Start from Bladon. Meet at the top of Park Lane on the left of the White House pub, by the Blenheim gates. Parking in the pub car park, to be arranged individually with the landlord, otherwise along the road. For a one-way walk, it is possible to park at Long Hanborough station and join a lift to Bladon. Alternatively, the S7 bus runs from Witney. Further details nearer the time. **Map Ref: SP447150** OX20 1RQ (White House Pub) What3Words: grumbling.warthog.hits
Car sharing very much advised. Leader: Julia Reed

Pop-up Walk if weather conditions are suitable
(Date and time tba) BURY DOWN RIDGEWAY WALK
A 3 mile walk on the Ridgeway looking for Short-eared Owls, Corn

Buntings & Winter Thrushes. Accessible off the West Ilsley road off the A34. Parking is marked on the OS map.
Map Ref: SU478841 **Please car share if possible.**
Leader: Sue Morton

December CHRISTMAS LUNCH. Date and venue to be confirmed.

JANUARY 2026

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

Friday 16th January 7:15 for 7:30pm MEMBERS' NIGHT
(Non-members equally welcome!) Bring items or 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

Sunday 25th January BIRDWATCHING AT SLIMBRIDGE WWT
Members make their own way for a self-guided visit to Slimbridge. Start individually at around 11am then meet in the Cafe at 1pm. Book tickets online: Adult £18.80, Concessions £16.80. *10% discount if you buy online before your visit.* GL2 7BT **Please car share if possible**

FEBRUARY 2026

Friday 6th February 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING
Craig Blackwell: 'Bees and Pollinators'

Thursday 12th February, 2:00-4:00pm NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT: LEARNING ABOUT HYMENOPTERA. A two-hour guided tour learning about these fascinating insects. Cost will be £5 per person, cash on the day. Numbers capped at 15. Meet at the Natural History Museum, Parks Rd at 1:50pm. Park and Ride is strongly advised. Further details nearer the time. OX1 3PW. Leader: Louis Lofthouse

MARCH 2026

Friday 6th March 7:15 for 7:30pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by Tim Birkhead: 'Guillemots'

Tuesday 24th March VISIT TO SALISBURY PLAIN TO SEE GREAT BUSTARDS. A bit of a journey (approx 50 miles, 1.5 hours drive), but worth it to see these unusual birds displaying. Meet at Enford Village Hall, which has ample parking, and we will be taken out onto the Plain in Land Rovers. Maximum number of 16 people. Cost £25 per person

APRIL 2026

Friday 3rd April 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING
Bob Cowley: 'British Deer'

Sunday 19th April, 11:00am GREENHAM COMMON REPTILES
Hoping to see up to four different types of reptiles, including adders. Look for Greenham Business Park at RG19 6HW
Leader: Neil Clennell

Thursday 23rd April, 10:00am SPRING WALK: WYTHAM WOODS
Owned by Oxford University since 1942, the Woods are designated SSSI and an area of continuous research. The estate comprises ancient woodland, modern plantations, and limestone grassland. The site is rich in flora and fauna; bluebells should be in bloom. The walk will be about 2 hours. Paths are reasonably easy to walk.
Leader: Julian Howe *[Other details to be confirmed]*

MAY 2026

Friday 1st April 7:15 for 7:30pm INDOOR MEETING Andrew Lack: 'Robins in Our Lives' and ANNUAL PLANT SALE in aid of Club funds.

Sunday 3rd May, 5:00am DAWN CHORUS AT RUSHY COMMON
Meet at Rushy Common car park off the Cogges - Stanton Harcourt Road at 5am (although some may prefer to start at 4am to catch the first sounds of the birds). It may be cold and wet so wrap up and wear wellies. Bring a torch.
Map Reference: SP381073 OX29 5AN Leader: Adrian State

It is helpful to let Julia Reid know if you intend to come on a walk, or if you need a lift. **Booking is essential for events where numbers are limited.**
Contact details: julia_d_reid@yahoo.com or 07703 552309

Members will be notified of further 'pop-up' events by email.
For more information visit www.thefieldclub.org.uk