

WEST OXFORDSHIRE FIELD CLUB – SUMMER PROGRAMME 2022

MAY

Sunday 1st 4 am DAWN CHORUS Minster Lovell.

Friday 6th 7.15 for 7.30 pm INDOOR MEETING Martin Catt - 'Montagu's Devon'.

Saturday 14th 10.00 am SOUTHILL SOLAR FARM near Charlbury. Walk led by Dr Anne Miller to see wildflowers, bees and butterflies, and to learn about this community-owned renewable project. Meet at the lay-by on the left side of the B4022 Witney to Charlbury Road. Map Ref: SP 363181 and Post Code: OX7 3AE

Sunday 22nd 6.00 pm EVENING BIRD SONG WALK at Rushy Common and Tar Lakes led by Sue Morton and John Cobb. We hope to hear and identify the songs of more common birds and summer migrants. The walk of a mile or two should take 1-2 hours. Meet at the Rushy Common reserve car park off Stanton Harcourt Road. Map Ref: SP381073 and Post Code: OX29 5AN.

Sunday 29th to Tuesday 31st TRIP TO SOMERSET LEVELS with Peter Creed. This trip is fully booked.

JUNE

Friday 10th 6.00pm LONG MEAD MEADOW near Swinford. Walk to see a species rich wildflower meadow in the River Thames floodplain led by Catriona Bass, the owner. This is a joint walk with the Green Party and numbers for the Club are limited to 12. It will take about 2 hours. Please park on Wharf Road which is just before the Talbot Inn and then walk to the site which is on the right side of the road going towards Swinford Toll Bridge. Map Ref: SP441088 and Post Code: OX29 4BT

Monday 20th 10.00 am CHIMNEY MEADOWS BBOWT RESERVE. Walk led by Lisa Lane of BBOWT to learn about the recent Wetland Restoration Project. The walk is limited to 15 and will take 2-3 hours. Park at the Chimney Meadows BBOWT office car park, which is about ½ mile further than the public parking area. Map Ref: SP354013 and Post Code: OX18 2EH.

Saturday 25th 9.00 am MOTH MORNING with expert Julian Howe in a private garden in Shilton. Refreshments will be served. Come and meet the moths from 3 overnight traps. We hope to see Hawk moths. Numbers limited to 15, priority will be given to members who haven't been on a moth morning before.

JULY

Sunday 3rd 11.00 am ASTON ROWANT NNR. A walk led by Dr Tim King to see and learn about the ecology of yellow meadow ants and the plants associated with their mounds. Also, we will see up to 8 orchid species in flower and the diverse chalk downland flora. Leave the M40 at J6 and join the old A40, travelling south. Turn right right at Christmas Common/Aston Rowant. Go past the NNR and over the M40. The Cowleaze Wood Car Park is about a mile after the motorway. Map Ref: SU727958. Use Post Code OX49 5XH.

Sunday 17th 10.00 am WINDRUSH VALLEY The walk will be led by 2 Club members to look for wild flowers and birds. The walk is approximately three miles and will last for 2-3 hours. Terrain will be variable and rough so please bring appropriate footwear. Parking will be in the service road which runs alongside the Burford to Witney Rd B4047, on the right if coming from Burford. Map Reference: SP 344103 and Postcode: OX28 6ED

AUGUST

Wednesday 3rd 11.00 am BUTTERFLY WALK led by Roger Newman. We visit 2 nature reserves in the Charlbury area – Wigwell and Dean Common. We will spend about an hour at each site. Parking in Nine Acres Lane for our first stop. Map Ref: SP357198 and Post Code: OX7 3RE

Thursday 11th 10.30 am HINKSEY HEIGHTS FEN on Harcourt Hill West Oxford. A walk led by owners John Brimble and Jenny Atkinson (a botanist) to see this steep valley fen and to learn about the work of the Oxfordshire Fens Project to restore the alkaline short-sward fen. The walk should take about 2-3 hours. Parking is at Hinksey Heights golf course car park (free). Map Ref: SP 501044 and Post Code: OX1 5AB

Saturday 13th 12.30 for 1.00 pm SUMMER PARTY at Shilton Village Hall. Enquiries and bookings to David Roberts jean.roberts2@btinternet.com. Please bring your own wine. Soft drinks will be provided. Cost £14 per person to the Treasurer, by end July.

Thursday 25th 11.00 am NATURES WILD HARVEST, ~ 2hrs walk at North Leigh Common led by Martin Catt. Depending on

the season there may be some fungi! Be prepared to scratch, sniff and taste! Take the A4095 from Witney and turn left to East End and the Roman Villa, then turn next right and the car park to the common is on your right. Map Ref: SP 399137 and Post Code: OX29 6PU

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 4th 2.00 pm INSECTS AND SPIDERS at North Leigh Common, with Lawrence Bee who has co-written 'Britain's Spiders. A Field Guide'. Lawrence will use equipment such as a beating tray and a sweep net to help him find and identify insects and spiders. The walk is limited to 15 and will last about 2 hours. Parking is at North Leigh Common Car Park. (Same directions as prior walk.)

TBA GEOLOGY WALK led by Lesley Dunlop

OCTOBER

Friday 7th 7.15 for 7.30 INDOOR MEETING Timothy Walker - 'Sex, Lies and Putrefaction'.

Saturday 15th or Friday 21st Open day 2.00 pm-5.30pm THENFORD ARBORETUM near Banbury. Lord and Lady Heseltine have over 40 years created on 70 acres an arboretum which has a collection of more than 3,000 different trees and shrubs. If members want to visit please book individually via the arboretums website which also gives directions. The cost is £16.00 each. The date of this trip depends on the dates of the next 2 walks.

TBA BIRDWATCHING TRIP

TBA FUNGUS FORAY led by Peter Creed

INDOOR MEETINGS are held in the High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

It is helpful, but not essential, 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 visit www.thefieldclub.org.uk