

WEST OXFORDSHIRE FIELD CLUB – SUMMER PROGRAMME 2023

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

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 MINSTER LOVELL

Worth the early start to hear the birds wake up, hope for 40 – 50 species. Terrain can be wet, slippery and steep in places. Bring a torch, wrap up very warm, boots or Wellies. Let Julia Reid know if you'd like to come along and we can look out for you.

Map ref: SP322113 OX29 ORR Leader Adrian State

Monday 15th 10am CHIMNEY MEADOWS RESTORATION PROJECT

Rescheduled from summer 2022. Walk of 2 – 3 hours to learn about the Wetland Restoration Project. Park at Chimney Meadows office, about half a mile from the public car park. **Map ref:**

SP354013 OX18 2EH Leader Lisa Lane of BBOWT

Numbers limited to 15; please book with Julia Reid.

Sunday 28th 1.30pm ASTON UPTHORPE DOWNS

Two-hour walk on chalk downland. Spring flowers, butterflies and day-flying moths. Leave A34 southbound at Chilton/Harwell campus, about 2 miles after the Milton (Didcot) interchange. Take first exit from roundabout and follow signs for E and W Hagbourne. Drive over Hagbourne Hill to a roundabout on the A417. Take the RH exit eastwards towards Upton and Blewbury. Continue 2 miles to large road sign on the left-hand verge. Turn RIGHT – signposted 'to the downs.' onto a steep narrow unclassified road. After about 1.5 miles you will see a large grain dryer. Park alongside at 90 degrees to maximize parking space. Short steep stretch; no cover. Pub at Upton on the A417 doing excellent food on the way. **Map ref: SU550844** Leader Malcolm Brownsword. Afterwards members are invited to Malcolm's garden in nearby West Hagbourne for tea and cakes. OX11 0NQ.

JUNE

Tuesday 6th 6pm PLANT IDENTIFICATION at STONESFIELD

Two-hour walk looking for unusual plants and flowers such as Meadow Clary at Stonesfield Common SSSI. From B4022 follow road through Finstock towards Wilcote; turn left at the crossroads. Turn left again at Ashford Mill then bear right over the railway bridge. The lay-by is about half a mile further on the right. Limited

parking so please car share. **Map Ref: SP388163** Leaders Genny Early and Brenda Betteridge

Sunday 25th 10.30am VISIT to PAULINE FLICK RESERVE

A walk to look at flora and birds on a half-mile stretch of disused railway line through limestone farmland near Great Rollright. Level grass path from car park area which is off the road; gentle slope from the entrance, then level; some roots and stones. **Map ref: SP323302** OX7 5RE Leader Jan Guilbride

JULY

Saturday 1st 9am—12 noon MOTH MORNING

Meet the moths from 3 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.

Sunday 9th 11am - 4pm WYCHWOOD FOREST FAIR

Foxburrow Community Wood, Foxburrow Lane, Witney. *Volunteers needed to help on the Club's stand; please contact Sue Morton if you can help.* Parking will be signposted off Hailey Road. **Map ref: SP353117** OX29 9UN

Wednesday 12th 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 20th 10.45am BUTTERFLY WALK

Walk of about two hours around a new butterfly transect in Charlbury, taking in a playing field, cemetery, grassland, hedgerows and allotments; opportunity to see many of the 20 or more summer butterflies. Meet at Charlbury Community Centre. **Map ref: SP357197** OX7 3PQ Leader Roger Newman. **Numbers limited to 15; please book with Julia Reid**

AUGUST

Thursday 3rd 12.30 for 1pm 60th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

at FarmEd, Shipton-under-Wychwood. Please bring photos of past WOFC events. Members £15, Guests £20. Optional farm

walk at 11am £10.00 per person extra. **Please book with Maggie Collins by 19 July.** **Map ref: SP288195** OX7 6BJ

Thursday 24th 10.30 am SYDLINGS COPSE BBOWT RESERVE

3.5 miles north of Oxford. The circular walk of 0.75 miles includes woodland, heathland and a boggy area. Some steep areas including 47 rough steps which can be slippery. Park in Taggs Gate in Barton, turn left onto a footpath and walk 1.5 miles uphill to Sydlings Copse. **Map ref: SP555079** OX3 9NW Also *limited parking* on B4027. From Headington roundabout take Bayswater Rd north through Barton: turn left onto the B4027, after 500m park opposite Royal Oak Farm. Take bridleway for 600m past 2 small woods. The reserve is on right. **Map ref: SP559096** OX3 9TY Leader Elaine Steane. Information about the reserve on the BBOWT website.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 10th 2.30pm SPIDERS AND INSECTS

Find out how to find them on North Leigh Common. Leave your phobias at home but bring a hand lens and transparent plastic box. **Map ref: SP399137** OX29 6PU Leader Lawrence Bee **Numbers limited 15; please book with Julia Reid**

Sunday 17th 11am IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DINOSAURS

A two-mile walk, exploring the world-renowned geology and geomorphology of Stonesfield area. Meet at St James Church carpark. **Map ref SP394171** OX29 8PP Leader John Baker

Date and time tbc BAT WALK

OCTOBER

Friday 6th 7:30pm FIRST WINTER INDOOR MEETING

Sunday 29th - Monday 30th FUNGUS FORAY in the Malverns 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 522309

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