

Ledbury Naturalists' Field Club

Spring and Summer field visits and excursions 2018

Please car share if possible

Date	Time	Details of meeting
13 April	17.30 h	Malcolm Penny will present a public talk on: Tales of the Undirected. Malcolm worked for Anglia TV on the Survival programmes. Twenty five years making wildlife films around the world, travelling with intrepid camera teams in the untamed wilderness. Why do we never see pictures of empty waterholes? Malcolm has plenty of anecdotes to go with his considerable field experience. It should be a fun night. Bring your friends and neighbours for this fund-raiser.
14 April	14.00 h	Cricklade North Meadow NNR It has a great variety of wildflowers and supports Britain's largest population of the snake's head fritillary <i>Fritillaria meleagris</i> . Its management for hay and grazing (Lammas meadow) has continued almost unchanged for at least one and a half centuries! Location: OS169 100944 north end of High Street, Cricklade. Leader: Eden Tanner
12 May	14.00 h	Ewyas Harold Common & Ewyas Harold Meadows. The Common is a 50 acre site of rough grassland & bracken of great natural history interest. We will be visiting hopefully at a time when significant numbers of the pearl-bordered fritillaries for which it is famous, will be emerging. British Butterfly Conservation have an adjacent meadow which we will also visit. Using road-side parking near the church or school, follow Church lane and Dark Lane to the footpath access point onto Ewas Harold Common Location: OL13 388 290 Sat Nav: HR2 0EN

09 June	14.00 h	<p>Wellington Heath for orchids and other flowers in the churchyard</p> <p>The churchyard is a treat at this time of year and has many rare plants and a wonderful view. We will then wander round a few of the nearby lanes, depending on time, finishing at David and Carolyn Evans lovely garden on Ochre Hill where we are invited for a cup of tea.</p> <p>Location: Meet at the church OS190 712 407 Parking is alongside on the road.</p> <p>Leaders: Carolyn Evans & Janet Parry</p>
11-13 June	Dep. c. 08.00 h	<p>Residential excursion to north Devon</p> <p>A guided walk around Braunton Burrows on Monday afternoon. Braunton Burrows is a sand dune system on the North Devon coast. It is a prime British sand dune site, the largest sand dune system in England. It is particularly important ecologically because it includes the complete successional range of dune plant communities, with over 400 vascular plant species. The short turf communities are very rich in lichens and herbs, and the dune slacks are also rich. The many rare plants and animals include 14 with UK Biodiversity Action Plans. For example, this is one of only two sites in the UK for the Amber Sandbowl Snail <i>Catinella arenaria</i>, which is found on the wet dune slacks. Tuesday 12th weather permitting we will sail to Lundy Island (£38.00 adult day return but once we know numbers we may be able to get a group discount). Wednesday we will visit a butterfly site before heading home in the afternoon.</p> <p>We have some accommodation booked in Croyde which also has a campsite for those that wish to camp. Once we have confirmed your place we will need a deposit to be paid.</p> <p>As before we will car share where possible</p> <p>Numbers are limited so please contact either Michael Bradley (michaelw1184w@hotmail.co.uk) or Kate Wollen (ayltonwollen@gmail.com) as soon as possible to confirm your interest.</p> <p>If we are over-subscribed you are still very welcome but you may have to find your own accommodation.</p>

21 June	18.45 h Evening walk	<p>Upper Hall Quarry and Grassland SSSI situated just to the North of Ledbury, is a complex of old quarries, woodland, and unimproved Silurian limestone grassland which is nationally rare. We will take an evening walk from Ledbury to the quarries, through the flowering meadow and follow a route back along the ridge of Frith Wood, an ASNW. The last part of the walk is steep in places, but you can skip this and take a shorter return route to Ledbury if you prefer.</p> <p>Location: OS190 717384. Meet at the Market House, Ledbury.</p> <p>Leader: Anne Crane Tel. 07854 316227</p>
30 June	09.30-11.00 h, 11.30-13.00 h, 14.00-15.30 h	<p>The Annual Family Event</p> <p>Join us at The Coach House, Hazle Farm by kind permission of Paul and Beverley Kinnaird, for a potentially wet and messy, but definitely fun session, looking at pond-related wildlife, with local pond expert, Nigel Hand. Depending on the numbers interested, we may need to put on two or three sessions. Please do not turn up unannounced but contact Steve Betts (gsbetts27@gmail.com tel. 632270) in good time, to book your two-hour slot! Children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be signs up at the entrance to guide you to car parking</p> <p>Location: Hazle Farm, on the Dymock Rd, approx. 550 m south of the Ross Road roundabout. OS190 705363.</p> <p>Leaders: Steve Betts & Nigel Hand</p>
June		Summer picnic tba
07 July	14.00 h	<p>Farm visit to Devereux Wootton</p> <p>Devereux Wootton is a mixed farm but the arable acreage is in a contract farming agreement and the grass is let to graziers for sheep and cattle. The farm is in a mid tier environmental scheme with a range of options that provide feed and habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>Location: Devereux Wootton Farm Norton Canon HR4 8QN. OS201 385485. Follow signpost to Cart Shed and park there.</p> <p>Leader: Patrick Wrixon</p>

28 July	14.00 h	<p>Ashleworth Ham is a Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust site, it lies in the floodplains of the Severn Vale and is part of a much larger SSSI. It floods easily, particularly over the winter, which makes it the perfect wetland for overwintering wildfowl. We will visit however for a summer walk looking for more general interest.</p> <p>Location: Meet at Meerend Thicket OS179 827263</p> <p>Leader: Eden Tanner</p>
18 August	14.00 h	<p>Buddhist Centre Coddington. This is a follow up visit from Jay Abrahams talk to the club in autumn 2107 on Wetland Ecosystem Treatment. We will have a guided tour around the water treatment system at the centre to see the wetland ecosystem that has been created.</p> <p>Location: Coddington Court is on OS Explorer map 190 at SO 724430. It is immediately south of Mayfield Farm and marked as “school” on the map as it once was! From Ledbury, go north under railway bridge and fork right to Wellington Heath. At top of hill keep right at junction with tree then turn left on Raycombe Lane. Keep going for 1.5 miles, going right at a triangle. The site entrance is soon on the left. Park near the entrance on grass.</p>
8 Sept	14.00 h	<p>Coombe Hill Canal and Meadows</p> <p>An SSSI comprising a disused canal with adjacent meadows and wetlands managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. A good site for birds, plants, butterflies & dragonflies.</p> <p>Location: Meet at the car park OS 886272</p>
18 Sept	10.00-16.00 h	<p>Slimbridge Wetland Centre</p> <p>We will arrange a bus trip to Slimbridge for members without personal transport using Ledbury Community Action transport. In order for this to work we will need intending participants to sign up early so we can book a minibus. If you are interested contact Alan tel. 01531 632485. The Admission charge for those over 65 is £10. Minibus costs tba.</p> <p>Leader: Alan Pike</p>

13 Oct	14.00 h	Fungus Foray at Haugh Wood Bring a basket and small knife to gather specimens. Location: Park in main Forestry Commission car park at SO 593368 (picnic table sign on map). Leader: Cherry Greenway