

# Ledbury Naturalists'

## Field Club

### Summer Programme 2019

20 April 14.00-16.00

#### ***Spring on Marcle Hill***

It is usually a good walk for all kinds of spring flowers. 2.7 miles of roads, rough tracks & footpaths. A steepish downhill section and a corresponding steep uphill part. Good footwear required.

Leader: Eden Tanner

Location OS189 630 346 Meet at the small car park at the crossroads.

09 May and 16 May 11.00

#### ***Pearl bordered Fritillary and Wood White Survey***

We will split into groups to survey the woods for the rare Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Wood White butterflies and the Drab looper moth. No experience needed as you will be matched with an experienced surveyor as needed. We will spend the morning walking in the woods recording any sightings.

If you are able to stay after lunch, please bring lunch. Wear suitable footwear and bring writing materials, and binoculars. Fairly level walking, mainly on hard forest roads.

Leader: Kate Wollen

Location: OS189 593 365. Main Haugh Wood car park.

11 May 14.00-16.00

#### ***Awnell's Farm visit***

Walk around the farm, including the traditional orchards with 300 year old fruit trees and rare Orchard Tooth Fungus. Meet the traditional Hereford cattle in the pastures on the farm including Jock; the very friendly prize winning steer. A variety of farm wildlife to be seen. Finish back at the farmhouse at 4pm for afternoon tea and cake. Iconic Herefordshire scene of Hereford cattle in a traditional orchard in full bloom. Donations to the Countryside Restoration Trust welcomed.

Leader: Viv Geen

Location: OS189 658 320 Satnav HR8 2NW Park in the area in front of the farmhouse.

Website: [www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com/properties/awnells-farm/](http://www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com/properties/awnells-farm/)

15 June 14.00-16.00

***Ellbatch Wood Great Witley***

A private woodland visit to see a green-woodworking camp, flowers, butterflies and a bird-box scheme. Optional 1¼ mile walk around the wood followed by refreshments (**Please bring your own mug**). Suitable footwear needed for uneven, undulating (walking sticks?) ground.

Leaders: Tom and Cherry Greenway (Tel. 01886 884388)

Location: OS204 736 666. Satnav WR6 6JG. See footpath/track post west of entrance to Abberley Hall school and look for LNFC signs.

21 June 19.00-21.00

***Midsummer walk over Hollybed Common***

Join us for a leisurely Friday evening stroll over Hollybed Common.

Location: OS190 774 371 Satnav WR13 6AA. Meet near the pond. There is no designated car parking.

Around 25 June After dark

***Glow-worm foray Bringsty Common***

Apart from being in the dark, it is easy walking along lanes where the glow-worms (5 in all when Alan and I went last year) very obligingly displayed themselves in the undergrowth beside the road. There is not much parking space as I recall and the lanes are narrow so car sharing is the order of the day.

Evening (after dark) an hour or so, could meet earlier for a walk on the common, or on the downs? We saw them last year on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Peter Hall (known to some of you as a micro-moth person, and county recorder) lives on the common and will let me know when the ladies are glowing, so we can arrange an evening nearer the time.

Leader: Anne Crane

Location: OS204 702 545 Depending on numbers, possibly Brockhampton school car park on the downs, then go together, no other obvious place to meet. **We will firm up the day and meeting point nearer the time.**

28 June and 05 July After dark

***Glow-worm survey Haugh Wood***

We will walk as a group in the dark on the main forest roads looking for and recording glow-worms. Unless the weather is very wet and windy we will go ahead. Bring a torch and wear suitable walking boots. We should finish around 23.30. Dogs under control welcome. Only suitable for those who are happy to walk on hard forest roads in the dark with limited torch light.

Leader: Kate Wollen

Location: OS189 593 365. Meet in Haugh Woods main car park at 21.45.

20 July 14.00-18.00

**Wildlife survey & barbecue**

Join us for a ramble around Trehumphrey Farm to conduct a short survey of the flora and fauna there, followed by a barbecue. More details nearer the time.

Leader: Kate Wollen

Location: OS189 532 229 Trehumphrey Farm, Llangarron, Ross on Wye HR9 6NX Park at sign nearest to Upper Heath Wood

27 July 14.00-16.00

**Doward**

Caves, quarries, and nature reserves (plus the best view in Herefordshire). A figure-of-eight walk over the Doward, taking in King Arthur's Cave and Seven Sisters Rocks, returning via Lepping Stocks Quarry, Woodside, Miner's Rest and White Rocks nature reserves. Should be opportunity to see silver-washed fritillary butterflies and broad-leaved helleborine, amongst others. Approx. 5 km

Leader: Chris Harris

Location: OS OL14 547 156. Meet at car park (charges apply) next to Doward Park Campsite. Some rough terrain and steep climbs.

Website: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Doward](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Doward)

03 August 14.00-16.00

**Swellshill, Rodborough Common**

A visit to a South facing steep bank where we hope to find Adonis Blue & Chalkhill Blue butterflies. May also see Brown Argus & Marbled Whites. Then return up towards the common and stop for possibly the best ice cream in the area at Winstones Ice Cream Factory. There should be time to explore other areas of the common as well. It is difficult to give specific directions, we always get lost in Stroud and so rely on the satnav to get in the general area.

Leader: Eden & Wendy Tanner

Location: OS168 859 021 Satnav GL5 5BZ.

Website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/minchinhampton-and-rodborough-commons/trails/rodborough-common-butterfly-walk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/minchinhampton-and-rodborough-commons/trails/rodborough-common-butterfly-walk)

14 August 09.30-16.00 for bus passengers. 12.00 for independent travellers

**Nant-y-Bedd Garden**

Nant y Bedd is a 6.5 acre organic garden and woodland located at 1200 feet up in the Black Mountains in the Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales.

Sometimes called the Garden in the Forest, Nant y Bedd comes as a complete surprise with wonderful mix of organic vegetables, imaginative planting, water,

stone and timber features giving something for everyone. Sue & Ian are also proud of their efforts in living in the most eco-friendly way possible, planting to help wildlife, using the local timber for cooking and heating (see the attention grabbing wood-stores!), making their own compost and woodchip paths, and the micro-hydro electricity generating system using the garden's stream. A new development for 2019 is its selection as only one of eleven RHS Partner Gardens in Wales.

Leader: Sue Mabberley; Alan Pike (for bus passengers)

Location: SO OL13 257 267 Satnav NP7 7LY. Nant y Bedd is 4.5 miles up the road towards Grwyne Fawr Reservoir, in the area known as Fforest Coal Pit, Abergavenny. Coming from Hereford turn right off the A465 at Llanfihangel Crucorney.

21 September 14.00-16.00

### ***Ripple Gravel Pits Uckinghall***

We will explore the bank of the River Severn and the area around the large gravel pits either side of the M50 bridge over the River Severn. At this time of year there should still be late butterflies, damselflies & dragonflies together with waterfowl on the lake. Binoculars will be a great help. It is not an area on the normal natural history circuit but proved interesting on our two visits last year. 2.5miles circular route, short-cut if too far. Flat easy walking.

Leader: Eden & Wendy Tanner

Location: OS190 864 376. Leave the M50 at junction 1 and head north up the A38 towards Worcester. After 0.4 of a mile take the first turn left towards Ripple. Keep left in the village and head towards Uckinghall. Ignore the next left turn to Bow and as you come into Uckinghall take the turn to the left, signposted 'To The River'. Follow this lane and you will pass the flood defences and come onto an unmade-up track with some monster pot holes. After a few hundred yards you will come to the car park on the left. Fisherman's car park.

Website :

[http://www.worcesterbirding.co.uk/ripple\\_gravel\\_pits\\_worcestershire\\_57.html](http://www.worcesterbirding.co.uk/ripple_gravel_pits_worcestershire_57.html)

19 October

### ***Beaver Watch***

Llangorse Activity Centre, The Gilfach, Llangorse, Brecon, LD3 7UH.

Call Kate Wollen tel. 07786 526280 to reserve a place.

Our visit will be mid to late afternoon and finish just after dark. A time will be advised closer to the date. The cost is £5.00 per person.

**Some places still available!**

# **Evening visit to the International Centre for Birds of Prey**

Sometime in November probably

**We do not have the numbers yet so if you think you  
might attend now is the time to say**

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