



Ringwood Natural History Society Programme ~ Summer 2025

28/04/2025



Fallow deer © Mike Read

- Indoor meetings are held at Greyfriars in Ringwood from September until April, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month, at 7.30pm
- We also have an extensive programme of walks.
- Short walks **(SW)** approximately 1 to 3 miles
- Walk **(W)** approximately 3 to 4 miles
- Long walks **(LW)** approximately 4 to 6 miles
- Field study walks **(FS)** approximately 0 to 1 mile
- Social gatherings **(G)** approximately 0 to 1 mile plus picnic
- Unless otherwise stated well-behaved dogs **on a lead at all times** are welcome with owners that adhere to the New Forest code and land owner requirements relating to dogs.
- Dogs must be covered by their owners own Third Party Liability Insurance
- In the event of adverse weather, **please check with the walk leader**
- Keep green, so please arrange to car share where possible
- Those not walking can often meet the walkers for a picnic or a pub lunch

Please read the following programme in conjunction with the notes on the previous page

Please remember there are 5 months of activity in this programme, it's inevitable some changes will occur from the printed copy, where possible the programme on our website will be updated regularly with any changes, please check before leaving home at ringwoodnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk

May

- Thu 1st** (W) **Pamphill** with Pat and Jean. Meet in the (free) Pamphill car park (map ref: ST 989 007) at 10.30am to walk down to the river, where we have seen kingfishers, and return through woods with bluebells. **Bring Lunch**
- Wed 7th** (FS) **Hosted walk by Barry Deakin**, arranged by Liz and Mike. Another visit to Barry's wood, Elf Cup Wood, Sandleheath to see bluebells and other flowers as well as reptiles and birds. Meet at 10.30am in the layby (map ref: SU 117.154) just beyond the 30mph speed limit cancellation signs. There is a maximum of 15 people so please book with Mike (Mike@mikeread.co.uk, 01425 475008). Places are allocated on a first come served basis. **Bring a seat, a mug and lunch**
- Wed 14th** (W) **Wareham** with Judy & Sonia. Meet in the car park next to the church at Conniger Lane BH20 4NQ at 10:30am. For a walk around the historic town walls. **Bring lunch**
- Tue 20th** (W) **Shatterford & Bishops Dyke** with Liz & Mike. A walk of approximately 3 miles looking for raptors and flowers. Meet at Shatterford Car Park at 10.30am (map ref: SU 348.064). **Bring picnic lunch** which will be eaten part way round.
- Thu 29th** (W & G) **Walk at Badbury Rings** with Lyn & Gerry. Meet at Badbury Rings Car Park (map ref: ST 960.031) at 10.30am (parking charges apply to non-NT members) for a walk around the Rings, The Oaks and High Wood. **Bring lunch & chair**

June

- Thu 5th** (W) **Durlston** with Pete W. Meet at Durlston CP BH19 2JL (map ref: SZ 031.772) at 10:30am for a 3-mile woodland and coastal walk (including some steep climbs) observing sea birds & butterflies. **(Note parking is expensive at £7.00, on street parking may be available on Durlston Road).** **Bring lunch**

June
(cont'd)

- Thu 12th** **(W) Martin Down** with Mike and Liz. Meet at 10.30am at the Sillen's Lane parking area (map ref: SU 057 193). On this extensive downland nature reserve, we will be searching for birds, flowers and insects during a 3 hour (or so) stroll around. Walking is on undulating ground with some hilly bits. **Bring lunch**
- Sat 21st** **(G) An afternoon tea** at Maz and Will's, from 2pm. Limited numbers. Phone Maz to book 01425 489495
- Wed 25th** **(SW) and picnic** with Pat. Meet at **WILVERLEY PLAIN** car park (map ref: SU 254 009) at 11am. for a short, easy -going walk. We should be back to the Car park by 12.30pm, so anyone not walking can join us for lunch. **Bring lunch and chair**

July

- Thu 3rd** **(SW) Gorley Common** (map ref: SU 168 119) at 10.30 for a walk with Jean of approx 3 miles. **Bring lunch**
- Wed 9th** **(SW) President's post prandial perambulation.** Meet in Fordingbridge in the main car park (post code: SP6 1AQ) at 7.15pm for a walk around Fordingbridge exploring the urban botany. We'll finish the stroll in the George Pub.
- Thur 17th** **(W) Fiddleford Manor, River Stour and Sturminster Newton** with Pat Holder. Meet at 10.30am at the (free) car park for Fiddleford Manor (map ref: ST 802 135) We'll look at the manor, then walk along the bank of the river, where there should be a variety of flowers. After our picnic it will be a short walk into Sturminster Newton, where drinks (and cake?) can be bought., before returning to the cars along a disused railway track. No hills, grassy paths, and gravel track. **Bring lunch**
- Tue 22nd** **(SW) Downton** level walk of about 3 miles with Maz and Will. Park at The Moot SP5 3PH at 11. o'clock take lunch which we'll be eating halfway round. **Bring lunch**
- Thur 31st** **(FS) Alners Gorse** with Gerry Lyn. We will meet at Alners Gorse (map ref: ST 735 099) at 10:30am, Alners Gorse is one of the few relics of the heavily wooded landscape that used to make up the medieval Royal Forests of Gillingham and Blackmore, with its mosaic of small herb-rich pastures on heavy clay soils. The site is now owned and managed by Butterfly Conservation. Car parking is limited so please car share where possible. **Bring Lunch**

August

- Wed 6th** **(SW) Shatterford** with Mike and Lnychiz. Meet at the Shatterford Car Park (map ref: SU 340 063) for a gentle walk of about 3 ½ miles. This walk can be wet in places so stout footwear is advised. We will be searching for birds, flowers (including some rarities) and other wildlife as we stroll along well-defined footpaths (for most of the way!) on fairly level ground. **Bring lunch**
- Thur 14th** **(SW) Milford on Sea** with Judy and Sonia. Enjoy a 3 mile walk on level paths with no stiles through a mix of woodland and seafront. Meet at 11.00am in the Hordle Cliff car park on the sea front (map ref: SZ 292 913), there are several car parks along this stretch of road this is the last one on the sea front road travelling east. Charges apply. **Bring lunch**
- Tue 19th** **Stockbridge down** with Theresa for chalkhill blue butterfly. Meet at Stockbridge down car park (map ref: SU 375 346). The car park is 1 mile from Stockbridge on the B3049 on the right hand side. Meet at 11 0 clock. **Bring lunch**
- Thur 28th** **(W)** A roughly 4 mile river walk from **Beaulieu to Bucklers Hard** with Audrey. Meet at 10.30am, parking at the motor museum SN42 7ZN and walking to the village and along the river. Possibly river trip afterwards. **Bring lunch**

September

Subscriptions are now due.

- Thu 4th** **(SW) Wild Woodbury** with Lyn & Gerry. We will explore this recent addition to the Dorset Wildlife Nature reserves. Meet at the reserve CP (post code BH20 7LH, map ref: SY 849 946) at 11:00 for a short walk or around 2.5miles. The entrance to the reserve is the lane opposite Elder Road to Court Farm (SY 847 946). **Bring Lunch**
- Thur 11th** ***Evening meeting at Greyfriars.** Christopher Legrand is giving a talk about Mountain Gorillas, Uganda and Kenya. Christopher invites us to share his enjoyment of the world around us and is a regular speaker for the Nats*
- Fri 12th** **(SW) Toyd Down** (map ref: SU 079 192) at 13.00 for a walk of about 3 miles with Jean. Note the **afternoon start**.
- Mon 15th** A 5 day coach trip arranged through Angela Holidays to the Black Country and Ironbridge. Contact Maz and Angelaholidays.co.uk for details

September

(cont'd)

Wed 24th **(SW) Blashford Lakes** with Christine for an easy stroll on good paths. Meet at 10.30am at the Tern hide car park (map ref: SU 152 084) No dogs.

Bring lunch and chair in case the picnic tables are busy.

Thur 25th ***Evening meeting at Greyfriars.*** A talk by Brian Pettit on *Wildlife Wonders of France and Spain*. Brian is a wildlife photographer and this is his rescheduled talk from September last year.

October

Thur 2nd **(W)** Enjoy a morning walk on **Castle Hill, Salisbury** with Judy and Sonia followed by either a picnic lunch or lunch in the Harvester Inn, Old Castle Road SP1 3SF. Then after lunch take a pleasant walk on the Old Sarum site, enjoying extensive views over the surrounding scenery. Meet at 11.00 parking in the car park of The Harvester Inn.

Tues 7th **(SW) Ober Water** walk with Maz and Will from 11am. Park in the Whitefield Moor car park SO42 7QD for a short, level walk. If coming just for lunch arrive about 12.30 **Bring lunch and chair.**

Thur 9th ***Evening meeting at Greyfriars.*** Kevin Tubb is giving a talk entitled *Dragons and Damsels: A Naturalists Perspective*. Kevin is a member of the Lymington Naturalists Society and this will be his first visit to the Ringwood Nats

Fri 17th **(FS)** A Fungus walk with Bill at **Mark Ash Wood**. Meet at the car park off Bolderwood Ornamental Drive (map ref: SU 247 073) at 11:00am. **Bring lunch**

Wed 22nd **Whitsbury Gallops** at 10.30 with Jean. Morning only. Drive right through Whitsbury without turning off left or right and you will come to the Gallops where you can park.

Thur 23rd ***Evening meeting at Greyfriars.*** Rosemary Legrand is giving a talk on *Exploring the South Island of New Zealand*. Rosemary has travelled extensively to gardens in many parts of the world and will share with us the amazing *Wildlife of New Zealand*

Thur 30th **(SW)** Join Christine for a short walk starting at 10.30am. **Details to follow.**

Please note, along with our seasonal programme, our weekly walk notes / species lists are available to view on our web site at ringwoodnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk.

Within the New Forest. In an emergency key code will be needed to open the security gates & barriers for the emergency services. Call the Forestry Keepers on 03000 674 420 for the codes. **It is essential** all walk leaders carry this number when leading a walk in the New Forest.

Walk Leader Telephone Numbers:

Jean Crawford		07742 357 891	Christine Storey		07753 324 465
John Gurney		07395 855 404	Bill Syratt	Home	01425 658 085
Theresa Holden		07811 781 760	Judy Thomas	Home	01425 839 877
Pat Holder		07712 334 526	Gerry Traves		07980 881 996
Martin King		07714 338 705	Lyn Traves		07906 570 360
Mike & Liz Read	Home	01425 475 008	Pete Wellstead		07941 613 334
Maz Russell		07437 413 612	Sonia Wilkinson		07714 882 732
Will Russell		07437 982 219			

Chairman: Theresa Holden. Tel: 07811 781 760, email: theresa.holden.rnhs@gmail.com

Vice chairman: Pat Holder. Tel: 07712 334 526

Membership secretary: Martin King. Tel: 07714 338 705

Secretary: John Gurney. Tel: 01425 471 362 / 07395 855 404, email: johngurney774@gmail.com

Treasurer: Pete Wellstead. Tel: 07941 613 334

Social secretary: Adrian Rose. email: hodderam@aol.com

Walks Organisers: Christine Storey & Pat Holder. email: rhnswalks@gmail.com

Speakers organised by: Position Vacant, email: