

## EARLY SUMMER WALKS, MKNHS, 2019

April to end June

April 30<sup>th</sup>, Kingswood

Di Parsons

Our first walk takes us up onto the Greensand ridge. We may see bluebells, stitchwort, early purple orchid. If wet, wellies are advised. Park in the visitor centre car park at SP 920294. Postcode: LU7 0BA to local houses continue up hill about 400yds . Note: £3.00 payable on exit.

May 4<sup>th</sup>, Howe Park Wood.

Gordon Redford

Saturday, 21.00 hrs and all night.

Following in the footsteps of the MKNHS members of 29 years ago (see 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Magpie) join us “mothers” for an all-night session and staying, weather permitting till the opening bars of the dawn chorus. Fold-up chairs, warm clothing, refreshments and hot drinks recommended. Meet in the Car Park opposite Westcroft shopping Centre off Chaffron Way (H7) at MK4 4DD.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. Salcey Forest, birdsong.

Harry Appleyard/Martin Kincaid

As in previous years we will focus on birdsong culminating in the dusk chorus. Cuckoo, Grasshopper Warbler and Wood Warbler have featured in previous visits. Meet in the Horse Box Car Park SP809508.

May14<sup>th</sup>. Stony Stratford Nature Reserve.

Joe Clinch

Stony Stratford NR (owned and managed by the Parks Trust) is an area in the Ouse valley of ponds, small lakes, thickets, and rough wet meadow (former gravel extraction site). Good variety of breeding birds on the Island including probability of Lapwing, Common Tern, and Oystercatcher.

Meadow Saxifrage should be in flower. Mix of hard core, wood chip and grassy paths (muddy and slippery when wet). Car Park off the north side of Queen Eleanor Street at Grid Reference: SP792410. Further information about the site is available at <https://mknhs.org.uk/stony-stratford-nature-reserve>

May 21<sup>st</sup>. Pilch fields

Andy McVeigh

This is one of the very few SSSIs in north Bucks, designated for their very rich flora and variety of habitats – some old ridge and furrow, limestone slopes and species-rich wet areas along spring lines. Early spring delights the eye with Cowslips on the ridges and Green-winged orchids on the banks. For the ‘orchidophiles’ there are other species together with many showy flowers as well as several ‘greens and browns’ of significance eg Adders-tongue fern.

Roadside parking but avoid the very sharp bend! Grid Ref: SP749321. Postcode MK17 0NX.

[www.bbowl.org.uk/reserves/pilch-field](http://www.bbowl.org.uk/reserves/pilch-field) and <https://mknhs.org.uk/pilch-fields/>

May 28<sup>th</sup>, Harrold Odell Country Park

Lewis Dickinson

Meeting place is Harrold Odell Country Park (car share advised). Lewis will show us the project he spoke about in his December talk. Opportunity to see otters, wildfowl/waders on the main lakes. Worth cautioning that there will be cattle in the fields, so if people are adverse, then this may not be for them. MK43 7DS SP956566

[www.hocp.co.uk/directions.html](http://www.hocp.co.uk/directions.html)

June 4<sup>th</sup>, Stonepit Field

Mike LeRoy

Grassland on Cornbrash limestone: a scrape, two large ponds, woodlands next to Railway Walk. Plants less common in MK: Kidney Vetch, Salad Burnet, Horseshoe Vetch, Ramsons and parasitic Common Broomrape. Butterflies, possibly Small Blue; Clearwing moths. Early grasshoppers & bush-crickets; spiders; dragonflies; bees, bumble and other. Bus: No.7 to Selkirk Drive east, Oakridge Park. Car park south of Newport Road, west of canal and Black Horse pub. SP844422

<https://mknhs.org.uk/stonepit-field/>

June 8<sup>th</sup>, Totternhoe Knolls

Matt Andrew with Bedfordshire NHS.

Saturday, start 11am

Hilly chalk grassland with Orchids, other chalk loving wildflowers, and Butterflies. The meeting will start at 11am from the Totternhoe Knolls car park at SP987217. Coming south on Castle Street, Totternhoe, you will find a red pillar box and 100yds further on a bus shelter, with a brown sign on the right pointing to Totternhoe Knolls. The lane leading to the car park is just before the bus shelter on the left. Nearest postcode LU6 1QG

June 11<sup>th</sup>, North Bucks Way and Oakhill Wood

Gordon Redford

Good for flowers and invertebrates and an opportunity to see how the ancient woodland restoration is progressing. Meet in the Car Park at the very western end of Portway (H5) SP815362 School just before car park is MK8 0PU

June 18<sup>th</sup>, Campbell Park

Martin Kincaid

Meadows, ponds and light woodland in MK's best-known park. Meet at Campbell Park Pavilion, HQ of Parks Trust, SP 868398. MK9 4AD

June 25<sup>th</sup>, Flitwick Moor

Joe Clinch

This SSSI, owned and managed by Beds, Cambs and Northants WT, is an acid peat habitat of wet woodland, fen, and rough grazing meadow. Good for grasses, ferns, mosses, and flowers. Uneven paths and board walks, can be muddy. Turn off Maulden road on the eastern outskirts of Flitwick at Folly Farm, then up a rough track. Small car park on edge of Reserve where track ends at TL046354, (MK45 5BZ will take to the industrial park opposite the track entrance). Car share strongly advised. Further information about the site is available at:

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/nature-reserves/flitwick-moor-foolly-wood>

or just put Flitwick Moor SSSI into Google.