

SPRING PROGRAMME 2022

Meetings are held on Zoom until further notice, on Tuesdays at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Visitors are very welcome. Contact Linda Murphy for advice on Zoom or visitor access to meetings (lindamurphy49@btinternet.com)

Please check website for further details about walks and dates T.B.C. www.mknhs.org.uk

JANUARY

11 MEMBERS EVENING

For our first meeting of the New Year, it's over to our members. Maybe you have found something interesting over the Festive Season or have some pictures to share with fellow members.

16 TONGWELL LAKE 11 am start

Sunday walk led by **Colin Dockety** to look for Goosander at one of their regular wintering haunts along with other water birds.
Park/meet by the lakeside in Yeoman's Drive off V10 Brickhill Street.

18 DINOPEdia – THE JOHN WICKHAM LECTURE

Over the last few decades, our understanding of dinosaurs and what they were like has fundamentally changed. In his new book Dinopedia, author and palaeontologist **Darren Naish** discusses the current view of these amazing animals and examines how we got to where we are now.

25 MONITORING EELS IN THE RIVER THAMES

Joe Pecorelli is a Project Manager for the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). He set up and oversees the monitoring of European eels in the Thames Catchment, the largest and most wide-ranging study on eel migration in the British Isles. Joe will tell us all about this significant Citizen Science Project.

FEBRUARY

1 SUMMER PLANNING – ALL MEMBERS

Fingers crossed we will be able to enjoy a relatively full programme of outdoor meetings this spring/summer. Do please come along with suggestions, maps and notebooks. Offers to lead the walks are always welcome.

6 OUSE VALLEY PARK AND FLOOD PLAIN FOREST 10.30am start

Sunday walk led by **Colin Dockety** After viewing snowdrops near Holy Trinity Church, a walk in the Ouse Valley Park visiting the three bird hides.
Park/meet in Manor Farm Court Road, off Old Wolverton Road grid ref SP810415, post code MK12 5NN

8 BIRD SURVEYS AND CONSERVATION IN THE UK

An evening dedicated to exploring the different bird recording projects in Britain. We will hear from a number of Society members including **Mike LeRoy**, **Tim Arnold**, **Kenny Cramer** and **Andy Harding** about their own specialist areas of bird

recording and how these contribute to our understanding and the conservation of these animals.

15 PHOTO COMPETITION

Our annual competition to find our favourite image, and for someone to win the **Ron Arnold Shield**, reaches its final stage tonight when winners are announced and invited to tell us about their winning images. See website for competition entry instructions. **Deadline for entries is 11pm on January 11th 2022.**

22 ROTHSCHILD'S LEGACY – CURATING THE BIRD COLLECTION AT TRING

Dr Alex Ford is curator of the Natural History Museum's staggering bird collection, held entirely at its Tring site. Alex will explain what his role entails and why we are so fortunate to have this collection on our doorstep.

27 TREE CATHEDRAL AND WILLEN LAKE 10 am start

Sunday walk led by **Colin Dockety**. After visiting the Cathedral of Trees a walk around Willen Lake stopping at the bird hide. Goldeneye should be present.
Park/meet at Campbell Park Pavilion, Silbury Boulevard, MK9 4AD

MARCH

1 EXPLORING THE ORIGINS OF LIFE – A SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Questions about the origins of life have been part of religious doctrines for millennia but today we have a scientific programme which may eventually answer these questions. **Professor Nigel Mason** will discuss how from the search for earliest evidence of life in rocks to laboratory experiments to simulate conditions of early life on Earth, we are exploring emergence of life on Earth whilst through space missions we are looking for life on other planets in our solar system and even on planets around other stars!

8 MEMBERS NIGHT #2 - SOCIETY BOOK REVIEWS

Once again a chance to recommend a favourite book, magazine or author on the broad subject of natural history.

15 MONITORING THE NOBLE CHAFER

The Noble Chafer is one of our most elusive beetles, associated with old orchards and fruit trees – a rarity in themselves. **Dr Deborah Harvey** coordinates the national survey for this species (which has been recorded in MK) and will update us on her research and findings to date.

20 SUNDAY SPRING WALK – venue T.B.C

22 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Time to elect officers and committee members for the next year and to reflect on the year that has been.

- 29 **BEDFORDSHIRE – OUR CHANGING HABITATS AND WILDLIFE**
 Bedfordshire Natural History Society recently published this book, documenting changes to the natural environment in Beds over the past two decades. Two of its authors, **Graham Bellamy** and **Richard Revels** will talk us through its preparation. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

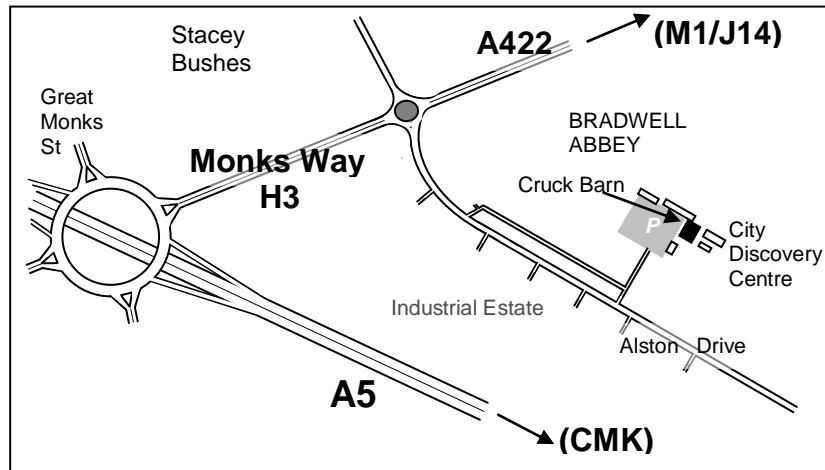
APRIL

- 5 **T.B.C.**
- 10 **SUNDAY SPRING WALK** – Venue T.B.C.
- 12 **T.B.C.**
- 19 **EASTER BREAK – NO MEETING**
- 26 **FIRST OUTDOOR MEETING** (See Summer Programme)



PROGRAMME

JANUARY- APRIL 2022



Please note that clause 7 of the Society’s constitution reads: “the Society will exercise due care when arranging its meetings and activities for the benefit of members. Members taking part in any meeting or activity do so at their own risk.”

- President:** Roy Maycock
- Vice Presidents:** Julie Lane
 Martin Kincaid
- Chairman:** Matt Andrews
- Secretary:** Mervyn Dobbin
- Treasurer:** Linda Murphy
- Address:** City Discovery Centre, Alston Drive,
 Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes, MK13 9AP
- Website:** www.mknhs.org.uk
- Contact Us** info@mknhs.org.uk

In normal circumstances the Society meets every Tuesday:

- September – April** In the Cruck Barn, City Discovery Centre (see map over)..
 Commencing at 7.30pm, with coffee, for **8.00pm** start
- April – August** At sites of local or regional natural history interest in the
 company of experienced naturalists. **7.00pm** start