

MILTON KEYNES  
**NATURAL  
 HISTORY**  
 SOCIETY



## Early Summer Walks Programme 2022

Here are details of the MKNHS walks during April and May 2022. These take place on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

We also have some events that involve outside organizations. These you have to book so that we know numbers, further details of these will be sent by email in the near future, the only one in this program is Gallows Bridge which is briefly noted below.

You can locate a Grid reference on a map by searching Grid reference finder in your browser or Play store or Apple I-store app

The start time of each meeting is given against its date. Please arrive 15 minutes before the walks are due to start, so we can run through the risk assessment as appropriate.

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."

### April

**Tuesday 26th April 19:00pm Howe Park Wood Colin Docketty and Martin Kincaid**

My usual circular walk around the wood to see how nature is waking up to spring. Wood Anemone possible, and maybe a Red Kite nest.

Parking Howe Park Wood centre off Chaffron Way H7, opposite Westcroft District Centre (Morrisons). Grid Reference SP830344 Café post code MK4 3GG

### May

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 19:00pm Yardley Chase Julie Lane**

A hike to hear nightingales at Yardley Chase starting in Olney and walking across to Yardley Chase on country paths. There are no guarantees that there will be nightingales

singing but I will do the walk beforehand and check if they are there and post on the website.

We might also see deer, foxes, barn and tawny owls, bats and any amount of other wildlife as it is a quiet undisturbed area. We will need to walk quietly to optimise our chances of good sightings.

This will be a 5.5 mile walk over rough but manageable terrain starting from Johnsons field, Olney MK46 5JF. Drive up West side Rise, turn left into Johnsons Field and drive along to the bottom corner of the field. Parking is limited so please car share where possible and I will be there to meet you.

We will almost certainly be walking home in the dark so please bring a torch and please only come along if you are confident walking in the dark. Grid Reference SP 884515

**Sunday 8th May 10:30 am Blue Lagoon Colin Docketty**

The Blue Lagoon is a very important site for Dragonflies and Butterflies. However the owners, M.K. Council have not carried out regular maintenance for several years. This walk will look at what state the key natural history parts of the site are now in.

This walk is not on made up paths like previous walks so please wear suitable foot ware.

Parking off Drayton Road, Bletchley (signed), go under railway bridge 150 to car park.  
Grid reference SP870326

**Tuesday 10th May 19:00pm Bury Field Ann Jones**

Bury field is an ancient common, a medieval open field. We hope to see a wide range of birds including Larks, Reed Buntings and various finches, and summer migrants such as Swallows Swifts and Martins and Cuckoos. We are hoping that Kestrels and Little Owls might nest. A wide variety of flowers and insects are also present.

Parking is behind the Newport Pagnell Medical Centre - 8 Queens Ave, Newport Pagnell MK16 8QT Grid Reference SP874439

**Tuesday 17th May 19:00pm Stony Stratford Nature Reserve Joe Clinch**

The Reserve was created in the 1970s following gravel extraction. It offers a good range of habitats especially wetlands for bird species with Oyster Catcher, Lapwing, and Common Tern usually breeding. Meadow Saxifrage should be in flower. Bird hide. Walking will be mainly on hard core paths but there are some muddy parts after heavy rain.

Parks Trust Car Park off Queen Eleanor Street, Stony Stratford grid reference SP791409  
Car sharing encouraged

**Saturday 21st May 11:00am Dunstable downs Colin Docketty**

We will first view five species of butterfly not commonly seen in M.K. – Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Green Hair Streak, Small Heath – which all occur together

in one very small area with Small Copper and day flying Moths also possible some flora. We will then get some exercise doing a circular walk in the downs, when we should see more common butterflies and flora.

Afterwards we could optionally have well earned refreshments at the café. Possibly a Bedfordshire Clanger, a long pastry case which the miners used to have for lunch. It has meat at one end (main course) and apples (desert) at the other. Toilets and outside seating is available. Walking footwear is recommended.

Parking is at the Chilterns Gateway Centre , on the right of the Whipsnade road B4541, Grid reference TL008195 and post code LU6 2GY.

Please Note the centre charges £3.50 for parking all day.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May    19:00pm    Stonepit Field                    Joe Clinch**

Stonepit Field was created as a biodiverse park in the early 1990s taking advantage of the underlying limestone geology and earlier quarrying. It includes small areas of trees, shrubs, flower rich meadow, ponds, and a 'scrape' where the limestone has been exposed. Good for flowers, invertebrates and aquatic species but also with bird activity (30 species identified on the Society's last visit in 2019). Walking is mainly on grass and can be slippery if wet.

Parks Trust Car Park at Stonepit Field off the Wolverton Road on the opposite side to Oakridge Park grid reference SP844422                    Car sharing encouraged

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May    10:00am    Gallows Bridge    Tim Arnold**

This is a special visit to Gallows Bridge courtesy of BBOWT, to see waders and other nature to be found in old fashioned wet pastures. This must be booked with Tim Arnold and full details will be sent by email after Easter.

**Approx 25miles /40 Mins from MK , 4 miles south east of Bicester SP671199, approx. post code HP18 OSY**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May    19:00pm    St Mary's Church Linslade                    Martin Kincaid**

This churchyard is rich in botanical life and a county wildlife site. We have found some unusual insects in the past. Limited parking close to the church so please car share. Grid reference SP909268 post code LU7 0DU

**The next meeting is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June and will appear in the later half of the program.**