

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2024

Most meetings are held at the Cruck Barn, on Tuesdays at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Visitors are very welcome. 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."

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served free of charge. Cups are provided, but you are encouraged to bring your own if you can.

SEPTEMBER

3 SUMMER REVIEW

Our return to the Cruck Barn after our outdoor season. Please come along willing to share a few recollections of your summer highlights

10 SAVE WOLVERTON SWIFTS AND MARTINS

This local conservation group has only been running for a few years but has already achieved great results for swifts and house martins. Paul Duberry and Emma Rix will be on hand to tell us all about it.

17 Our Chairman **Matt Andrews** will share with us some more of his superb photographs from a recent foreign adventure.

24 THE FLORA (AND FAUNA) OF SWITZERLAND'S UPPER ENGADINE VALLEY

Tim Arnold visited the valley early in the Alpine spring and found a wide variety of flowers below the retreating snow line, helped by the mixed geology of the area. He will share some of the floral highlights this evening.

OCTOBER

1 THE GREEN ROOF PROJECT

Chris Bridgman MBE is Director of Bridgman and Bridgman, a Milton Keynes based company which leads the way in green roof technology and installation. Their aim is to ensure that every roof that can be, be green and wildlife friendly.

8 A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BRITISH DEER

We are fortunate tonight to be joined by a local authority on deer. **Will Waldron** is Senior Deer Keeper at the Woburn Estate. He will talk to us about the biology and behaviour of the various species and discuss their management and husbandry.

15 BUILDING COLLABORATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN MILTON KEYNES

Mike Flood from Climate Action MK will give us an illustrated talk on this new partnership.

20 LINFORD WOOD – SUNDAY MORNING WALK

A mid-autumn walk led by Martin Kincaid around a local wood well known to our members. We should find a good variety of fruiting fungi and perhaps late flowering plants.

Meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start in the Enfield Chase car park, off V7 Saxon Street, adjacent to a BP garage and the large communications mast. MK14 9PB - SP844402 - tank.annotated.solder

22 MEMBERS NIGHT – BOOK REVIEWS

These evenings have proved popular in the past. Please bring along a favourite wildlife book or piece of natural history writing and be prepared to say a few words about its importance to you.

29 THE KITTIWAKE

If any bird is truly deserving of the name "Seagull" it is surely the kittiwake, a species far more at home on the open sea than on our shores. Why then, do so many nest on the Tyne? **Martin Kincaid** will talk about one of his favourite British birds.

NOVEMBER

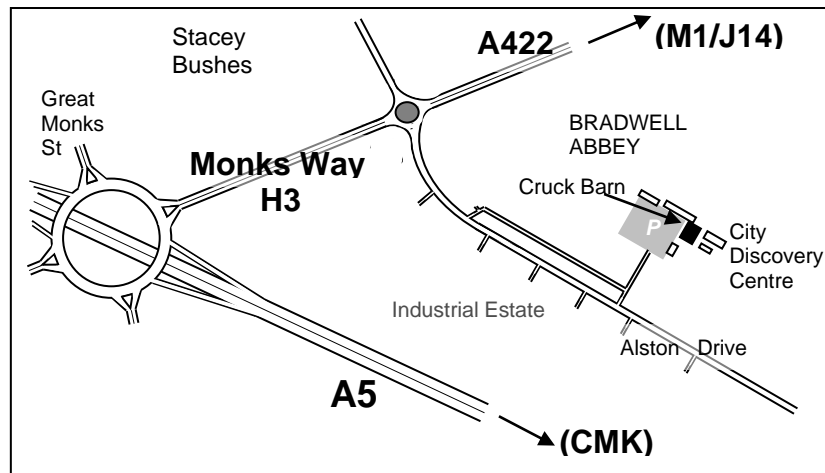
- 5 WHALES AND DOLPHINS OF THE AZORES (ZOOM MEETING)**
With over twenty species recorded The Azores undoubtedly offers the best whale-watching in Europe. Experienced naturalist, presenter and Naturetrek leader **Sara Frost** will share some of her stories of watching these creatures, from deep-diving Sperm Whales to playful Striped Dolphins.
- 12 THE EAST-WEST RAILWAY**
The east-west railway which runs close to Milton Keynes will soon be in service. Ecological consultants **Laura Webb** and **Anna Rowlands** will talk us through the ecological mitigation that has been followed for this project and plans for monitoring wildlife on specially created sites on the route.
- 16 SATURDAY WALK – FLOODPLAIN FOREST NATURE RESERVE (2pm start)**
A weekend visit to one of our most popular locations. Leader: **Martine Harvey**
At this time of year, we should see a variety of wildfowl and perhaps raptors, including the local Peregrines.
Meet at the Manor Farm Court car park, MK12 5NN – SP807417 – porridge.rumble.slept
- 19 BOTANICAL SESSION – Details tbc**
- 26 QUIZ NIGHT**
Once again **Ann and Mark Strutton** will test our grey matter with an array of taxing questions, all with a natural history twist. Teams of four or more will be assigned on the evening. Please bring your own refreshments (and brain power).

DECEMBER

- 3 WHAT'S IN A NAME?**
Society member **Justin Long** takes a sideways look at the naming of living organisms. How are species given their scientific names and what are the dos and don'ts of the naming game?
- 8 SUNDAY WALK – EMBERTON COUNTRY PARK – Leader: Samuel Flowers, Park Manager.**
A site we have not visited in the winter months often. We hope to see winter wildfowl including Goosanders and Barnacle Geese and perhaps Barn Owls towards dusk. Members are asked to record all sightings for the park database.
Meet at the entrance to country park between 1.30 and 1.50 to be let into the park ready for a 2.00 start. MK46 5FJ – SP886500 – relatives.kinds.headlight
- 10 THE SOIL ASSOCIATION (ZOOM MEETING)**
The Soil Association is the charity that works to improve the way we grow our food and to farm the land more sustainably. We will hear about their *Farming for the Future* and *Innovative Farmers* projects. Speaker to be announced.
- 17 CHRISTMAS PARTY & FEAST!**
With just a week to go until Christmas, a chance for us all to meet up and reflect upon the year that was, with some good food and drinks. We will circulate a list in the preceding weeks so that you can tell us what dish you can bring along!

Next meeting: Tuesday 7th January 2025

MILTON KEYNES NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2024

President:	Roy Maycock
Vice Presidents:	<i>Vacancy</i>
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

The Society meets every Tuesday:

September – April	Usually in the Cruck Barn, City Discovery Centre (see map over), but occasionally some are held on Zoom. Commencing at 7.30pm, with tea/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.