

Practical conservation tasks

There are regular opportunities to get more involved in the practical management of the site, usually on a Thursday or at weekends between September and May. Work normally involves the cutting back of scrub using hand tools. Please contact Hannah Bosence, the Council's Countryside Engagement Officer, to join the conservation volunteer mailing list.

Are you a friend?

Receive events programme and attend events for less, by becoming a member. Membership only costs £3 per adult. Please contact the chairman for further details.

Useful Contacts:

Melanie Gibbons, Chairman
Friends of St Catherine's Hill
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Hannah Bosence, Countryside Officer
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Robin Harley, Countryside Officer
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Dorset Police (North Christchurch Beat)
northchristchurchsnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk 101
(non emergency line)

Website: www.fsch.org.uk

FSCH



Friends of St Catherine's Hill

Events Programme 2017

*Featuring our
site History Day
on 24 September*



Photos: provided by and © Chris Dresh & Robin Harley

FSCH
Friends of St Catherine's Hill

www.fsch.org.uk



Friends of St Catherine's Hill Events Programme 2017

Events are subject to change and weather conditions on the day, please e-mail Hannah Bosence: hbosence@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk or call **01202 795630** for further information.

Most guided walks and talks are charged at £2 per member and £4 per non-member (accompanied children free). All proceeds will go towards the running of the group. Most events open to non-members.

Wed 22 Feb Annual General Meeting 7.45pm (8pm start) –9.30pm
Get an update on the tenth year of the Friends and elect officers; followed by refreshments and a talk on the upcoming History Day and Lottery bid by Robin Harley. *Meet in St Catherine's Community Hall.*

Sat 22 April Reptile Ramble 11am-1pm
Join Gary Powell From the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust for a walk to look for all six native reptiles found on site. Wellies recommended. *Meet Avon Causeway entrance to site, opposite Avon Causeway Hotel, SZ136975.*

Sun 30 April Early Bird Walk 6.30am-8am
Join us on our annual early morning bird walk with local ornithologist Graham Armstrong. Chance of hot drink and bacon roll in Hall at end. *Meet Outside St Catherine's Community Hall, Marlow Drive.*

Sat 13 May Christchurch Harbour Bird Boat 10.30am-12pm
Guided birdwatching boat tour around Christchurch Harbour led by local ornithologist David Taylor. Booking, well in advance essential, cost **£13pp**, minimum of 10 people required. *Please call to book and to get meeting point details.*

Sat 10 Jun Birds of the Heather..... 10am-12pm
Join local ornithologist David Taylor for a morning walk around site looking for heathland birds and to see how the site is recovering after the fire in 2015. *Meet at junction of Marsh lane and Suffolk Avenue. Wellies and binoculars useful.*

Sat 1 July Flying Tonight 8.45pm–late
Opportunity to see and hear fascinating nightjars, followed by an optional light trapping session on site to look for moths. Torch, wellies and insect repellent recommended. *Meet entrance at junction of Orford Close and Hillside Drive SZ139958.*

Sat 22 July Field Trip to Holt Heath Time TBA
Join a National Trust ranger for a guided walk around Holt Heath.

Sat 5 Aug Insect Air Show 2pm-4pm
Guided walk to look for dragonflies, butterflies and other bugs led by Robin Harley. *Meet Avon Causeway entrance to site, opposite Avon Causeway Hotel, SZ136975.*

Sun 27 Aug Late Summer Stroll 3pm-5pm
Guided gentle walk around site for members with David Mariner to look at the late summer colours of heather in bloom, followed by cream tea and chat in the Hall. *Meet outside St Catherine's Community Hall.*

Sun 24 Sep History Day 10.30am-4pm
Biennial event to celebrate the rich and fascinating history of the site. Bigger and better, with a strong WW1 theme to mark the centenary. Lots of stalls and activities for the whole family. This year is planned to be the biggest and best ever. *Meet on top of the Hill by the concrete water reservoirs. Free entry.*

Sat 14 Oct Annual Litter Pick 10am-12pm
Help the Council's Countryside team keep the site litter free. All equipment (pickers, gloves, bags) and refreshments provided. No charge for this event!! *Meet at the top end of Sandy Lane. SZ144948.*

Sat 11 Nov Fungal Foray 11.15am-1.15pm
Join expert Phil Budd on a walk around site and find out more about the world of mushrooms and toadstools. *Meet at the top end of Sandy Lane. SZ144948.*

Sun 26 Nov Taster Practical Task 1pm-4pm
Find out more about how the site is managed by the Council's Countryside Team and get hands on by taking part in a pine pull to help keep the heathland habitat open. Gloves, tools, supervision and refreshments provided. *£Free Meet by site gate at top of Marlow Drive.*

Wed 13 Dec Christmas Social & Fun Quiz 7.30pm-9.30pm
Annual festive get together for members, with mulled wine, mince pies and prizes. Maximum team size of six people—**booking in advance essential**. Tickets £4 members, £6 non-members *Meet at St Catherine's Community Hall.*