

## 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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Dorset Police (West Christchurch Beat) 101  
[westchristchurchnpt@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:westchristchurchnpt@dorset.pnn.police.uk) (non emergency line)

Website: [www.fsch.org.uk](http://www.fsch.org.uk)

# FSCH



*Friends of St Catherine's Hill*

## Events Programme 2018



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## Friends of St Catherine's Hill Events Programme 2018

Events are subject to change and weather conditions on the day, please e-mail Hannah Bosence: [hbosence@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk](mailto: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 21 Feb Annual General Meeting** 7.45pm (8pm start) –9.30pm  
Get an update on the 11th year of the Friends and elect officers; followed by refreshments and a talk on the Hill during WW1 by Rick Sharp. *Meet in St Catherine's Community Hall*

**Sat 28 Apr Tree & Shrub Identification Walk** 2pm  
Local botanist Felicity Woodhead will help guide us through what features help us tell apart all our local tree and shrub species. Join her on a spring walk around site. *Meet by gate access to site at Marlow Drive.*

**Sun 29 Apr 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 5 May Christchurch Harbour Bird Boat** 11am-12.45pm  
Guided birdwatching boat tour around Christchurch Harbour led by local ornithologist David Taylor. Booking, well in advance essential, cost **£13pp**, minimum of 12 people required. *Please call to book and to get meeting point details.*

**Sat 23 Jun What Lies Beneath** 10am-12pm  
Join local freshwater ecologist Robert Aquilina for a exploration of the life in some of the ponds found on site. Wellies recommended and 15 minute walk to pond site. *Avon Causeway entrance to site, opposite Avon Causeway Hotel, SZ136975.*

**Sat 14 Jul Field Trip to Sopley Common** 2pm–4pm  
Join Dorset Wildlife Trust site warden Andy Fale for an exploration of this interesting reserve just north of St Catherine's Hill. Chance to see a variety of heathland wildlife and learn more about the site. *Meet in layby outside Hurn Bridge Sports Centre, Hurn SZ128971.*

**Sat 4 Aug Bats of the Hill** 7.45pm–late  
Indoor introduction to bats with Jan Freeborn from Dorset Bat Group, followed by a walk out on site. Hopefully we will see and hear bats and maybe the odd nightjar. Torch and insect repellent recommended. *Meet in St Catherine's Community Hall on Marlow Drive.*

**Sun 16 Sep TBC Eight-legged Friends Spider Walk** 11am-1pm  
Join local webmaster Tony Sheridan on a hunt for some of the many spider species to be found in heathland and woodland habitats. Meet at gate at top end of St Catherine's Hill Lane.

**Sun 30 Sep Fungal Foray** 9.30am-12pm  
Joint foray on the Hill with Dorset Fungus Group. There should be several expert identifiers and a good chance to encounter some of the rarer mushrooms found on site. Meet in car park on Marlow Drive.

**Sat 13 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.*

**Sun 18 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 12 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.*