

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 Robin Harley, the Council's Countryside 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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Robin Harley, Countryside Officer
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James Palmer, Assistant Countryside Officer
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Dorset Police (West Christchurch Beat) 101
westchristchurchnpt@dorset.pnn.police.uk (non emergency line)

Website: www.fsch.org.uk

FSCH



Friends of St Catherine's Hill

Events Programme 2019



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Friends of St Catherine's Hill Events Programme 2019

Events are subject to change and weather conditions on the day, please e-mail Robin Harley: rharley@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk or call **01202 795628** 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 27 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 by local author Steve Roberts on The Ringwood to Christchurch Railway (The long lost Hurn branch). *Meet in St Catherine's Community Hall*

Wed 20 Mar **'Butterflies of the Local Area'** talk 8pm-9.30pm
Join local naturalist Mike Gibbons for a talk on local butterflies in the countryside and our back gardens. Refreshments provided. *Meet in St Catherine's Community Hall, Marlow Drive.*

Sun 21 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.*

Sun 28 April **Field Trip to Hengistbury Head** 7.45pm–9.30pm
Join Brian Heppenstall from BCP Council for a unique evening walk to hopefully see and hear natterjack toads and learn about the management of the site. *Meet at Solent Meads Golf Course (then brisk walk to site) where there is no parking charge.*

Sat 29 June **Plants of the Heath** 11.30am-1.30pm
Join naturalist Phil Budd for a walk around site looking at the typical vegetation of heathlands. Wellies/stout footwear recommended. *Meet in small gravel car park opposite the Avon Causeway Pub, Hurn.*

Sat 13 July **Creatures of the Night** 8.45pm-late
Walk on site led by Robin Harley to hopefully see and hear nightjars, followed by a moth trapping session to find out more about the lesser seen wildlife of the site. *Meet entrance to site at junction of Orford Close and Hillside Drive.*

Sun 28th Jul **Family Bug & Beastie Day** 10.30am-3.30pm
Join the Council Countryside team and various experts to find out more about some of the smaller residents of the Hill. Find us on top of the Hill by the concrete water reservoirs (walk straight up from top of Marlow Drive).

Sat 10 Aug **Photography Workshop** 10am-1pm
Details for this event are yet to be confirmed. Indoor and outdoor session on getting the best from your digital camera or smart phone with local photographer Alan Crockard. Booking essential and limited numbers, £8 pp, including refreshments. *Meet in St Catherine's Community Hall.*

Sat 21 Sep **History of the Hill Walk** 11am-12.30pm
Join local historians Sue Newman and Mike Tizzard for a whistle-stop walk through the site's fascinating history. Meet between the concrete water reservoirs (walk straight up from top of Marlow Drive).

Sat 12 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.*

Sunday 3 November (TBC) **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.*

Sun 17 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 11 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.*