

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
melaniegibbons@hotmail.com 01202 470849

Robin Harley, Countryside Officer
robin.harley@bcpcouncil.gov.uk 01202 795628

James Palmer, Assistant Countryside Officer
james.palmer@bcpcouncil.gov.uk 01202 795612

Dorset Police (West Christchurch Beat) 101
westchristchurchnpt@dorset.pnn.police.uk (non emergency line)

Website: www.fsch.org.uk



Events Programme 2020



Photos: provided by and © Robin Harley



www.fsch.org.uk



Friends of St Catherine's Hill Events Programme 2020

Events are subject to change and weather conditions on the day, please e-mail Robin Harley: robin.harley@bcpcouncil.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 26 Feb Annual General Meeting 7.45pm (8pm start) – 9.30pm
Get an update on the 12th year of the Friends and elect officers; followed by refreshments and a talk by local author Steve Roberts on Hengistbury Head. *Meet in St Catherine's Community Hall*

Sat 28 Mar Birds of the Heath 8am-10.30am
Guided walk to look for birds typical of the heathland habitat with local bird expert David Taylor. Binoculars recommended if you have them. *Meet at junction of Suffolk Avenue and Marsh Lane. SZ151947.*

Sun 26 Apr Snakes in the Heather 10am-12pm
Join Owain and James from ARC a morning walk to look for our six native reptiles and learn about their conservation. *Meet in small gravel car park opposite the Avon Causeway Pub, Hurn.*

Sun 3 May 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 June It's a wonderful night for a Moondance 8.45pm-late
Evening walk on site led by Robin Harley to hopefully see and hear nightjars. Torch and insect repellent recommended. *Meet at junction of Orford Close and Hillside Drive.*

Sun 12 July Field Trip - Wootton Coppice 1pm-3pm
Join Mike Gibbons for a guided walk looking for butterflies and other wildlife in this New Forest Enclosure. This can be a ticky site, so please wear appropriate clothing. *Meet in Wootton Bridge car park, north of Bashley/New Milton SZ250997*

Sat 1st Aug Insect Ramble 2pm-4pm
Join naturalist Phil Budd and a BCP Ranger for a guided walk looking for butterflies, dragonflies and other small residents. Wellies recommended. *Meet entrance to site at junction of Orford Close and Hillside Drive.*

Sat 19th Sep Spider Hunt 2pm-4pm
Join expert webmaster Tony Sheridan for a guided walk to look for some of the eight-legged inhabitants of the heathland habitat. Tony can also answer any spider related questions. *Meet gate onto site at top of Marlow Drive.*

Sat 10 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 25 Oct Little Rotters 11am-1pm
Join naturalist Phil Budd for a mushroom identification walk. We will be focusing on identification and learning about the ecology of the varied species found on site, rather than picking. *Meet at entrance at top of Sandy Lane.*

Sun 15 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 9 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** via Melanie Gibbons. Tickets £4 members, £6 non-members. *Meet at St Catherine's Community Hall.*