

Mid-Herts Local Group



Herts and
Middlesex

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE MID-HERTS LOCAL GROUP - APRIL 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2019



© Tom Marshall

Welcome to our spring summer newsletter. Spring is definitely on the way, the flowers and trees are beginning to burst into leaf and the days are getting longer. We hope you managed to attend some of the events we had during the autumn/winter.

On a rather wet Sunday, 15 attended Ashridge Forest in the hope of seeing the rutting spectacle. Sadly, even the deer decided it was a stay-at-home day, as we only saw a few hinds including a white. Our trip to Dungeness had better weather and sighting of 35 birds including the three egrets - cattle, great and little - together with harriers and Cetti's warbler. We even had a

lovely glimpse of some beautiful scale steam engines that run along the coast.



Little egret

At WWT centre Barnes (London Wetland Centre), we were inspired by their conservation work and had good bird sightings. The Asian otters were cute, too! At our indoor events, we were wooed by some beautiful photography from Andy Sands, Tom Williamson and Stuart Warrington. All gave wonderful presentations and inspired us by giving detailed accounts of their conservation projects and an awareness of the countryside we are so lucky to have on our doorstep.

Most recently, we had a packed hall to hear about hedgehog rescue and care from Hetties Hedghogs, our locally based rescue centre. They take in underweight or injured hogs. Mary brought along a rescue hog and we were privileged to be able to see it up-close, as sadly, these lovely creatures are missing from many areas.

You will see the list of the events planned for spring and summer

including several walks making the best of our wonderful countryside. Our Birding Bonanza to Dorset is a unique weekend trip to visit the Heathland RSPB Reserve of Arne, Dorset, and see the success of the Great Bustard Reintroduction Project in Salisbury, Wiltshire. All details of our events are posted on the Trust website at hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/events and all bookings should be made from there.

I hope you will find something of interest in our programme. If you feel you would like to have some input into the events we arrange, please get in touch with either Claudia or Neale (details on the reverse). I should also bring your attention to our AGM on 23rd July at Tewin Orchard which will be followed by a social evening.

Penny Fanthorpe, March 2019

MID-HERTS LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP EVENTS APRIL 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2019

Suggested donation £3/5 for members/non-members unless otherwise stated. Families welcome. Please check for pushchair and wheelchair accessibility at outdoor events. Contact Neale Holmes-Smith 01707 324313 or Claudia Harflett 07754 145029 / claudia.harflett@gmail.com for travel arrangements for events marked with *.

PLEASE BOOK ALL EVENTS ONLINE AT: HERTSWILDLIFETRUST.ORG.UK/EVENTS

Tuesday 23 April | 6.15pm - 8pm

Bluebells at Codicote

CODICOTE

Join Mid-Herts Local Group for an easy three-mile walk through Gaffridge Wood and into Knebworth Park. Bluebells should be carpeting the woods and hopefully we may catch a glimpse of deer too.

Friday 26 April - Sunday 28 April

Heathland Birding Bonanza*

RSPB ARNE & SALISBURY PLAIN

Join us on a unique weekend trip to visit the Heathland RSPB reserve of Arne, Dorset and see the success of the Great Bustard Reintroduction Project in Salisbury, Wiltshire. For further information, travel including car sharing options and accommodation, please contact Claudia Harflett on the email above.

Tuesday 14 May | 7pm

Surveying Amphibians

HATFIELD

This event will cover basic amphibian survey techniques. We will be looking under several refugia, using torches to spot newts in the water and searching the traps, using nets, to check for eggs. Expect a fair bit of walking - wellies, waterproofs and head torches needed. Amphibian species we hope to find are great crested newts, smooth newts and common toads.

Tuesday 28 May | 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Woodland Wildflower Walk

WELWYN GARDEN CITY

Take an easy two-mile walk with volunteers from Mid-Herts Local Group, identifying woodland wildflowers along the way.

Sunday 9 June | 10am - 12pm

Explore the Forest of Marston Vale

MARSTON MORETAINE, HERTFORDSHIRE

This community forest between Bedford and Milton Keynes was born nearly 30 years ago and is still growing. We will explore the wide range of habitats at the Wetlands Nature Reserve. We can then explore Stewartby Lake or another part of the Forest. Entry fees and car parking charges apply.

Saturday 22 June | 8pm - 10.30pm

Things That Go Flap in the Night

SANDY, BEDFORDSHIRE

Join volunteers from Mid-Herts Local Group for a guided walk around the reserve by the warden, looking at habitat management and future plans. As the sun sets, we will use bat detectors to locate bats and listen for the churr of the nightjars (should they return). If not we can identify the moths found at this heathland reserve. RSPB charge £3 per person (payable in cash on the night directly to the warden). Parking free to RSPB members, £6 per vehicle for non-members.

Sunday 14 July | 10am - 3.30pm

Barton Hills and Hexton Chalk Pit

HEXTON CHALK PIT

A day of two halves - visit Barton Hills Nature Reserve across the border in Beds in the morning. Lunch in a local pub and then spend the afternoon exploring nearby Hexton Chalk Pit Nature Reserve.



Chalkhill blue ↗

Tuesday 23 July | 7pm - 9pm

AGM and Nocturnal Visitors Walk

TEWIN ORCHARD

Convening at Tewin Pavilion, join us for our short AGM and some cheerful company, as the Mid-Herts Local Group celebrate another successful year of walks and talks. This is a bring-your-own-to-share picnic with kitchen facilities provided. Afterwards, enjoy a brief guided walk around Tewin Orchard to learn about its nocturnal visitors. There will be an opportunity for a small group to watch the badgers (booking essential).

Tuesday 24 September | 8pm - 10pm

Sherrardspark Wood - Management and Macrophotography

WELWYN GARDEN CITY

Using amazing macrophotographic techniques, the enthusiastic wood wardens will share the history and wildlife of this significant Hertfordshire wood.

Please check the website for our future events:

www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/events

