

## **BNHS Winter 2023 Programme**

### **SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER LUTON 10:30am**

Walk in Stockwood Park which was originally the estate and grounds to Stockwood House. Many of the original features are still visible and the park still contains some impressive veteran trees, including cedar, oak and sweet chestnut, some of which date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. It is adjacent to Kidney Wood, which is a small bluebell wood, with the remains of an ancient wood-bank as well as some old hazel stools and evidence of hornbeam coppicing. Please book your place with Julia Powell at [JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com](mailto:JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com) or 01582 661328. Please meet in the car park near the entrance to the Stockwood Discovery Centre. This has toilets and a café which opens at 11am, post code LU1 4LX, grid reference TL087197.

Leader: Sam Mostyn-Willis works for Luton's Parks & Countryside Services as the Horticultural Coordinator, working with volunteer groups across the council's greenspace sites as well as a casual employee of the Wildlife Trust.

### **TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER MAULDEN 8pm**

**Our first talk of winter is in Maulden Village Hall.**

#### **Wildlife in Greece by Alice Hunter**

Greece may be a familiar destination for many, with thoughts of beach holidays and pool-side retreats springing to mind. There's more to this Mediterranean haven than meets the eye though and, in this talk, Alice will share some of the wonderful species that make up the rich tapestry of Greek flora and fauna, along with a few of the spectacular landscapes they grace.

**About Alice:** She is a freelance wildlife photographer and guide with a lifelong passion for the natural world in all its guises. Born and raised in Herefordshire she is now based in the flat fenlands of Cambridgeshire but travels widely with her work.

### **SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER MARSTON MORETAINE**

Details of the BNHS Conference will be circulated to all members separately.

### **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> November HEATH & REACH 10am note time**

Stockgrove Park fungus foray joint with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Fungus Group.

Please book your place with Julia Powell at [JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com](mailto:JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com) or 01582 661328.

A late autumn visit to this Greensand Ridge site, which can usually be relied upon to offer us the Herald of Winter (*Hygrophorus hypothejus*). Meet in the car park at Stockgrove Country Park off to the southwest of Brickhill Road which runs between Heath & Reach and Great Brickhill. Grid ref: SP920293, LU7 0BA. There is a visitors' centre, café and toilets. The car park now has a number plate recognition system. Charges last year were £4 for up to 3 hours, £6 for longer. See <https://www.greensandtrust.org/parking-at-rushmere> - look at the info about the Stockgrove car park, NOT the Main car park.

Leaders: Pat & Keith Cavanagh

### **TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER MAULDEN 8pm**

**Talk at Maulden Village Hall by Mark Avery entitled "Nature Conservation Today".**

Dr Mark Avery is a senior UK conservationist with nearly four decades' experience of giving wildlife a better future. The author of numerous previous books, including *Inglorious*:

Conflict in the Uplands (2015), Mark worked for the RSPB for 25 years before going freelance in 2011.

He is well known figure in the conservation world and although we have no details of his talk, no doubt he will mention his recently published book "Reflections: What wildlife needs and how to provide it". He will be bringing some copies with him, so please remember to bring some money if you think you would like to buy one.

#### **TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 8pm ZOOM**

##### **BNHS Christmas members evening by Zoom**

Members are invited to share some photographs of their wildlife highlights of the year for all to enjoy. Details to be circulated separately.

#### **TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, WOBURN 9:30am**

**Boxing Day Walk** through Woburn Park. Please book with Julia Powell on

JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com or 01582 661328. Meet at the Woburn Village car park, opposite the church in Park Street, post code MK17 9PG, Grid Ref SP950331.

Leader: Julia Powell.

#### **TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, ZOOM opens at 7:45pm**

**Talk 'Butterflies Through Time' by Matt Hayes**, will look at current research being carried out on Wildlife Trust reserves, monitoring the impact of climate change, investigating if artificial butterfly banks can help protect species from extreme weather events. Matt will then discuss another part of his research, looking at historical butterfly specimens from the University Museum of Zoology in Cambridge, which can extend records 200 years back in time. Combining historical specimens and modern-day research allows wildlife of the past to inform conservation of the future.

Matt Hayes is a PhD student studying at the Zoology Department at Cambridge University. He is part of the Insect Ecology Research group and his work is partnered with the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. He is interested in studying the ecology, behaviour and habitat requirements of invertebrates in the UK so that appropriate management can be put in place to maintain biodiversity on our fragmented reserves.

#### **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, BEDFORD, 10:30am**

*The date for this walk is subject to the vagaries of the weather. An alternative date of Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup> has been reserved. Please look at your emails in the days leading up to the walk for further details.*

Discover the surprising diversity of lichens to be found in an urban setting. From attractive mosaics on gravestones to lichens trodden on pavements, this walk will provide a gentle introduction to the study of these overlooked organisms. Bring a hand lens if you have one. Bedford Park and the adjacent cemetery provide a considerable amount of lichen interest and a short walk along adjacent roads is a good introduction to urban lichenology which is surprisingly interesting. Please book your place with Julia Powell 01582 661328 or JuliaCPowell800@gmail.com.

Please meet in the car park off Foster Hill Road (on the west side of the park). It is "Pay and Display", but parking is free for 3 hours. It's about 200 yards away from the bandstand. **OR**

There is unrestricted free parking along Park Avenue (on the south side of the park). The park is accessible through at the lodges near the SE and SW corners or through the trees,

but not from immediately south of the bandstand because the way is blocked by tennis courts.

There is a cafe (The Pavilion) about 100 yards north of the bandstand - it has a toilet. The coffee is good. They also do light meals/snacks. There is a toilet near the pond at the SE corner (20p).

Leaders: Martin Butler and Mark Powell.

## **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>, Zoom opens at 7:45pm**

**Talk Biofluorescence: A hidden world of communication** by David Atthowe.

Biofluorescence is the ability of certain organisms to reflect light in a different colour than the one they absorbed. It is an incredibly widespread phenomenon that can be found in almost every kingdom of life. Join me for a journey through this little-researched area of the natural world as we explore Biofluorescence in the U.K. and beyond in a range of organisms.

### Biography

Over the past 15 years, I have had the privilege of exploring various ways of connecting with the natural world. Through practising forest bathing, leading expeditions around the world, landscape and macro photography, permaculture design, and food forest design I have gained a deeper appreciation for the wonders of nature. I have walked more than 10,000km across 6 different countries for various causes through my organisation Nomadic Lion, all under the banner of sharing joy and happiness with all. I am a Forest Therapy Hub qualified Forest Bathing Guide and Forest Therapy Practitioner. I also work as a project manager for a Norfolk-based charity Pathmakers, encouraging people to get out into the Norfolk countryside, and organising an annual walking festival called Walk Norfolk. In 2022 I came across Biofluorescence in a TED Talk about Praying mantises and have dedicated the last year to nose-diving as deep as possible into this fascinating, yet little-studied area of the natural world.

## **TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH, MAULDEN 7:30pm; NOTE START TIME- doors open 7pm**

**BNHS AGM and RECORDERS SHOW** After a short AGM, the Officers and Recorders will present their annual reports. A wonderful way to find out about the up, downs and new arrivals of wildlife in our county. Also hints about what might be coming our way.