



# Wild About Beds

Autumn 2019

## Award of Honorary Life Membership to Alan Outen

by Wilf Powell

At the Society's AGM held on 19 March 2019, Alan Outen was formally awarded Honorary Life Membership of the BNHS. Alan Joined the Society in 1970 and his story has been one of admirable hard work and achievement ever since. Soon after joining he was appointed as the county Bryophyte recorder and served in that role for 40 years, writing the Bryophyte account for the Society's celebrated *Flora of Bedfordshire*, published in 2011. He was also an energetic Recorder for Fungi from 1998 to 2011. In 2010, he launched our Neglected Insects in Beds initiative to encourage more recording of less well-known insect groups and the following year he established the very active Bedfordshire Invertebrate Group (BIG). This initiative has included three highly acclaimed, biennial invertebrate conferences, each of which has been fully booked and attended by over a hundred delegates from our county and further afield. Alan successfully recruited an impressive number of national experts to give presentations at these events. Experts were also recruited to run training workshops on aphids, earthworms and, very recently, plant galls. These efforts, especially the many field meetings organised by Alan for BIG members, have produced a huge number of county records, including many Bedfordshire firsts. Strong links forged by Alan with the Zoological Society of London (particularly at Whipsnade Zoo), the Woburn Estate and Center Parcs at Woburn Forest have allowed recording in areas not normally accessible to the public. Alan, supported by his wife Pattie, has been very much the driving force for all of this. Congratulations on your Hon. Life Membership, Alan, and long may your efforts prosper!

## In this 192<sup>nd</sup> issue:

### Contents

A wonderful tribute	2
Summer programme highlights	3
Looking out for glass snails	5

### Contents

Focus on Facebook	5
Upcoming events	7

Wild About Beds is the newsletter of:



**The Bedfordshire Natural History Society**  
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**BedsLife**  
[www.bedsbionet.org.uk](http://www.bedsbionet.org.uk)

## The BNHS

The BNHS was formed in 1946, its main function to record the fauna and flora of the county. It has over twenty active Recorders who cover many branches of natural history study and whose annual reports are published in the *Bedfordshire Naturalist* journal.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, Wild About Beds, and programmes of meetings. These meetings include field meetings to Bedfordshire sites and occasionally farther afield. During the winter months there are illustrated lectures normally held in Maulden; the Christmas Members' Evening is held in Maulden.

The Society depends on annual subscriptions which are devoted to its working, as all offices are honorary. Membership is open to anyone, whether resident in the county or not. If you would like to join the Society, please contact **Mary Sheridan**, Honorary Membership Secretary, 28 Chestnut Hill, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 2TR. Tel: 01525 378245, email [membership@bnhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@bnhs.org.uk).

## BedsLife

BedsLife - Bedfordshire & Luton Biodiversity Partnership is a consortium of government and non-governmental agencies dedicated to promoting the maintenance and enhancement of Bedfordshire's biodiversity. The Partnership oversees the implementation and monitoring of the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan, which can be found online at [www.bedsbionet.org.uk](http://www.bedsbionet.org.uk).

### Editor: Heather Webb

The Wildlife Trust, Priory Country Park, Barkers Lane Bedford MK41 9DJ.

Email: [newsletter@bnhs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bnhs.org.uk).

Your comments/notes on anything that you have observed in the field, on the road or in a past Wild About Beds issue are welcome/essential for continuity. Please do send articles to me either as an attachment via email or through the post. Pictures are always welcome; material required by **1 December 2019** please.

**Thank you in anticipation.**

The next Wild About Beds will be published in **December 2019**. Please note that any views are independent of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society and BedsLife.

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## Stuart Winter and 'Back Chat'

by *Mike Bird*

Whilst browsing through the Autumn edition of *BirdWatching* magazine I came across a back page interview with Beds Bird Club member Stuart Winter described as 'A quick chat with ... Journalist and self-confessed birding busy-body'.

The article is a series of short questions to which the interviewee gives a similar brief reply. When asked: "Who was your birdwatching inspiration or mentor?" Stuart replied:

"Don Green, a stalwart of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society, who took me on my first trip to Minsmere in 1970. I am eternally grateful to him for all the birding adventures that have followed."

What a terrific tribute to our sorely missed Don.



*Please note: to reduce the risk of email spam being sent to contributors and others, '(at)' appears in email addresses in place of '@' in this newsletter. -Ed.*

## Summer highlights 2019

by Julia Powell, Sheila Brooke and Betty Cooke

### Felmersham, Sunday June 23

A good number of people turned up for this event including some visitors, so we had a total of 15 people in all. Steve Cham, our leader gave us a lot of information about the management challenges to provide prime habitat for Dragonflies and Damselflies. We did not see the Norfolk Hawker, but the other target species were on show. Apparently Scarce Chaser is not particularly scarce here. ID hints for the Variable Damselfly (or vampire damselfly – see “British Dragonflies by Dave Smallshire and Andy Swash) and flight pattern of the Downy Emerald were passed around. Steve showed us clear evidence from last year regarding the egg-laying of Willow Emerald Damselfly so we all now know what to look for on Willow trees hanging over water, hopefully without falling in ourselves! As we made our way down to the great lake, we came across very large numbers of exuvia of different species, especially Emperor Dragonfly although significant numbers of the adults were not present.



Pale toadflax *Linaria repens*. Photo by Betty Cooke

### An evening with Beavers, Thursday June 27

We were invited by Ampthill and Woburn District Scouts to entertain the Beavers section. We chose Flitton Moor as we could showcase several different activities there. About 20 youngsters turned up and were split into groups, the first of which were taken off to the pond for some pond dipping. Before we could get started with the remaining Beavers, a cry went up – “My tooth has just come out”. Somehow I missed having this on the risk assessment! After some discussion about the going rates from the Tooth Fairy, we were able to continue with half the group doing the quiz and the other half looking at the live material we had brought and the nature table artefacts. After about half an hour, the groups switched around and later switched again so everyone had a turn. Judging by the noise levels and the lack of individuals wandering off, (no-one fell in the water either) it seemed to be a great success. My thanks to Wilf, Sheila, Betty and Graham for helping out so ably.



A wasp spider, Wadelows Nature Reserve. Photo by Betty Cooke

### Flitwick Moor Invertebrate Day, Saturday June 29

Half a dozen recorders plus some other interested members of the BNHS and WLT turned out for this event but there was a distinct lack of any members of the public apart from some walkers. This being by far the hottest day of the year so far may have had something to do with this.

### Swiss Garden Wednesday July 24

We were welcomed back to Swiss Garden for their Bug Hunt and made comfortable under a very large gazebo which gave us a good base for the day. We started early, being met in the car park by a little girl and her mother who had come for the previous two years. Once we were inside, families were queuing up to take part. The highlight seemed to be interaction with the recorders and the live material collected. But there was a lot of interest in the display and quizzes throughout the day as some families kept coming back all day. In addition, some recorders decided to return as the site was so interesting.

### River Lea Bioblitz Sunday July 28

Unfortunately the inclement weather was not ideal for seeking out invertebrates, or anything else for that matter, but a small group braved the elements with our very knowledgeable guide, Trevor, and we did do a bit of botanising!

Despite the lack of wildlife, our time was well spent learning from Trevor about the historic interest of the area and the natural history aspects of the site. Waulud's Bank is an important prehistoric site

at the source of the River Lea and the area has a mixture of habitats, including Leagrave Marsh, grassland, woodland and water which would have been great on a sunny day.

With lots of potential there, we plan to repeat the meeting in 2020 – watch this space!

### Blows Downs walk Monday August 12

Seven people enjoyed a long walk over Blows Downs led by Esther Clarke, who began in the new extensions to the reserve. In the Paddocks we saw the very tall Knapweed Broomrape, and although the hayfield had been cut, we did find the diminutive Pale Toadflax in an uneven corner, out of bounds to the cutting machine. Determined to see the Chalkhill Blues we climbed the slopes and finally found just one. A Raven and two Buzzards flew overhead. Thanks, Esther, for telling us lots of background information, and particularly about the Slow-worm translocations and good to hear that there are still some remaining on the reserve.

### Wadelows Nature Reserve Wednesday August 21

Fourteen people, mostly from the Invertebrate Group, visited this private reserve behind Poplars Garden Centre, amazingly only accessible through a Narnia-like door, to find grassy slopes, hedgerows, woods and ponds. A good number stayed by the pond enthralled by the wildlife which Sheila netted and displayed in trays. Others scoured the hedgerows and meadows in search of insects, finding a good variety, including 22-spot and 24-spot Ladybirds and a Wasp Spider with prey.

### Harrold-Odell Country Park Monday September 2

Janet Munro, Country Park Warden, arranged for her volunteers to erect a large awning for us to use as a base adjacent to the café on this fine day, unlike the downpour we had last year. We were busy all morning with families using nets to dip in the main lake and examine the catch in trays, with the most exciting specimens placed in a small aquarium for all to see. Everyone was interested looking at the finds: a small stickleback, water boatmen or back swimmers, a screech beetle, diving beetles, mites, water fleas and some quite large leeches. The nature table display and the quiz interspersed with visits to the playground and feeding the ducks added to the enjoyment.

### Duck End Nature Reserve Saturday September 7

A group from BNHS and Mammal Group enjoyed our annual sortie to Duck End Nature Reserve to trap, weigh, record and release small mammals. We had varying sizes of Bank Vole (11) and Wood Mouse (4) this time and thanks go to Sue and her willing helpers who set out the traps and remembered where they had put them!

One or two of us lingered after the meeting and were rewarded with the appearance of a Willow Emerald persuaded out by a short burst of sun. A nice bonus - and a tick for me!



Pond dipping at Harrold-Odell Country Park.  
Photo by Julia Powell



Wood mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*, Duck End NR. Photo by Julia Powell

## Looking out for Glass Snails

by Peter Topley, BNHS Mollusc Recorder

We are all familiar with the slugs and snails that cross our path on pavements after rain or the very few species that concentrate on devouring our garden plants. Looking no further than this means that we miss a whole range of slugs and snails (and freshwater bivalves) that can be found in the county. Most records that are sent to me are of the larger species but there are many smaller snails that can be recorded, although they will take a bit more effort to find and identify. One species that is probably under recorded because of this is our smallest snail, the dwarf snail, *Punctum pygmaeum*, adults of which are only about 1.5 mm in diameter! However, there are a number of larger species in the 5 to 18 mm size range which can be found more easily in habitats that range from gardens to woodland leaf litter and under logs etc.



Garlic snail *Oxychilus alliarius*. Photo courtesy H. Zell ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU\\_Free\\_Documentation\\_License](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_Free_Documentation_License))

Amongst these 'larger' snails are our four species in the family Oxychilidae (sometimes called 'Glass snails') which commonly occur in sheltered habitats such as woods/hedgerows and gardens. These snails are generally quite flat, smooth and often shiny with a fairly narrow umbilicus and superficially look very similar to each other. Snails are one of the few groups of animals which can be recorded by what they leave behind (their shells) as well as by finding the living animal, although in the case of *Oxychilus* species, identification is far easier in living individuals. This is particularly the case for the smallest of these species, *Oxychilus*

*alliarius* (Garlic snail) which emits a strong garlic smell when irritated (hence the name!); it also tolerates acid soils where not many other mollusc species are found (eg certain places on the Greensand). With another (introduced) species, *Oxychilus navarricus helveticus*, there is sometimes a milder garlic smell but it is easily distinguished by the conspicuous black colour of the animal's mantle (body wall) that shows as a dark band through the shell near the aperture. The 'Cellar snail', *Oxychilus cellarius*, which lives in moist areas and can also penetrate into crevices and caves, has a very flat, pale and transparent shell and no garlic smell. The largest species, another early introduction to this country, *Oxychilus draparnaudi* (Draparnaud's glass snail) (11-16mm) also has a flat shell which is slightly opaque with easily visible growth lines; the last whorl enlarges rapidly and there is a relatively small umbilicus (the hollow cone-shaped space within the whorls on the underside of the shell). It is commonly found in gardens and waste ground. Apart from the Oxychilids, another similar species of about the same size is *Aegopinella nitidula* (Smooth glass snail) (in the related family Gastrodontidae), a very common species which has a waxy shell and a milky flush around a large umbilicus. There is also the similar but much smaller *Aegopinella pura* (c. 4 mm) which can also be distinguished from its larger relative by the fine spiral striae which cross the irregular radial growth lines (you need a x20 hand lens for this!).

Some useful references with illustrations

Cameron, R. (2008) *Keys for the identification of Land Snails in the British Isles*. FSC AIDGAP guides.

Eversham, B. (2016) *Identifying land snails: a key v.2* available at: <https://www.naturespot.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/Land%20Snails%20Key%20version%20%202.1.1%20ii2016%20illustrated.pdf>

Naggs F., Preece, R.C., Anderson R. (2014) *An illustrated guide to the land snails of the British Isles*. Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London, The Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and The Malacological Society of London.

## Focus on Facebook

by Wilf Powell

Our Facebook page remains a great place to post observations and photos of wildlife encountered in your garden or whilst out and about around the county, especially if you don't know what the beastie is or are uncertain about your identification. There is almost always someone who can help.

Here are a selection of things posted recently. On the butterfly front it has been a good year for the Painted Lady, a species that migrates in from the continent every year but in some years can do so in spectacular numbers. This year clouds of them have been reported from some parts of the country and they were very much in evidence in Bedfordshire in August. Colin le Boutillier and Scott Stalham both posted photos of Painted Ladies seen in Maulden Wood and Stopsley, Luton, respectively. However, the prize has to go to Keith Balmer who managed to get a shot of two Painted Ladies and two Red Admirals all feeding together on a Buddleia in his garden.

Caterpillars featured on several occasions with Keith Balmer finding Elephant Hawkmoth caterpillars in both their green and brown colour forms at Duck End Nature Reserve, whilst Sam O'dell photographed the striking caterpillar of a Lobster Moth in Apsley Guise Woods. Betty Cooke posted photos of caterpillars she had found at Flitton Moor which Melissa Banthorpe identified as Red Admiral caterpillars.

Large hoverflies of the genus *Volucella* also featured several times. Norman Finan posted photos of one taken in his garden in Houghton Regis but he wasn't sure what this impressive insect was. Colin le Boutillier identified it as a female *Volucella zonaria*. This mimic of the Hornet was also photographed by Ian Kelly at Pegsdon Mill whilst Betty Cooke photographed both this species and *Volucella pellucens* on Devil's-bit Scabious in her garden.

Mandy Holloway posted some excellent photos of a female Roesel's Bush Cricket taken in her garden at Heath and Reach. These clearly show the U-shaped yellowish border to the sides of the pronotum, which confirms it as Roesel's. Female bush crickets are easy to distinguish from males as they sport an impressive sword- or sickle-shaped ovipositor at the end of the abdomen. People often confuse bush crickets with grasshoppers but the former have long, thread-like antennae whereas grasshoppers have much shorter, stouter antennae.

Photos of a mystery insect found lurking under the lid of his garden waste bin were posted by Trevor Morgan, with a request for help in identifying it. Stephen Plummer rapidly identified it as the larva of a lacewing. These are fearsome predators of aphids and other small, soft-bodied insects. They have large, curved jaws (clearly visible in Trevor's photos) which are hollow and used to pierce the unfortunate prey and then suck out its body fluids. Isn't nature wonderful!

Requests for help with wildlife surveys are sometimes made via our Facebook page. Ken Winder and Ann de Winter highlighted the decline of the Dormouse in the county with the only known remaining natural population still present around Studham, although the population that was introduced into Maulden Wood 18 years ago is doing well. Ken and Ann requested people to survey their local woods for hazel nuts that show obvious Dormouse feeding damage.

Two years ago, Andy Banthorpe, our county moth recorder, initiated a survey of Field and Norway Maple for the characteristic leaf mines made by the micro-moth *Stigmella aceris*. He posted a map showing the results, with the moth being recorded in large areas of Bedfordshire and requested help with surveying those tetrads that remain blank. He also posted helpful photos of the relevant leaf mines which should be visible until around late November.

Colin le Boutillier posted a photo of a Knopper Gall on Oak at Duck End, which was very timely as the society held a workshop on plant galls on September 1 at the Greensand Trust Working Woodlands Centre, Maulden Wood, organised by Alan Outen. Nineteen members attended and were treated to excellent presentations by three national experts, Tommy Root, Peter Shirley and Brian Spooner, followed by a field excursion to Barton Hills after lunch.

John Wakely, the county plant recorder, posted some helpful notes and identification hints on the less common rush species occurring in Bedfordshire, based on recent observations by himself and Steven Squires. He included a photo of some pressed specimens.

Lastly, there was a report by Ann de Winter of an unfortunate development at Duck End Nature Reserve near Maulden. Someone has released a number of fish into the ponds on the reserve and Ann posted a photo of them to seek an identification. These appear to be young carp and pose a threat to freshwater life in the ponds, especially dragonfly and damselfly larvae which are important on the reserve. Attempts to remove the fish need to be made but unfortunately this will prove difficult.



### Events Programme Autumn 2019

Please check the website [www.bnhs.org.uk](http://www.bnhs.org.uk) or join the BNHS News Group for the latest information.

In severe weather, the leaders may cancel the event if conditions are unsuitable. Please check the website early on the day or contact Sheila or Julia.

Indoor talks start at 8pm at Maulden Village Hall, grid reference TL048380, post code MK45 2DP. Parking is free. Visitors are encouraged.

A small charge is requested for refreshments at the talks and possibly on other occasions too. Donations are always welcome.

For field meetings, please wear stout footwear and warm clothing, bring a hat, water and sun cream if it is hot. OS Landranger Numbers 152, 153, 165 & 166 cover Bedfordshire.

**REGRETTABLY NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED and children under 16 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult.**

**Unfortunately some trips will not be suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs. Please contact the leader in advance if you have any concerns about accessibility.**

Please check the web site [www.bnhs.org.uk](http://www.bnhs.org.uk) or join the BNHS News Group for the latest information.

(F) Particularly suitable for families and young people.

(L) Bring a picnic lunch for all day events.



Meetings organised by the ornithological section, the Bedfordshire Bird Club (BBC)



BIG – Bedfordshire Invertebrate Group, book your place with Alan Outen: [alanouten\(at\)virginmedia.com](mailto:alanouten(at)virginmedia.com) 01462 811374

### **TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, MAULDEN 8pm**

Jonathan Forgham - The Road to Hel. Birding the Polish Baltic Coast.

### **SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, SILSOE 10am (F)**

**FUNGUS FORAY** joint with Herts and Beds Fungi Group at Wrest Park. We have had some very successful forays here in the past, so we are delighted to have been invited back again after a gap of a few years. Wrest Park comprises 90 acres of gardens including many ornamental and ancient trees, woodland, grassland and water bodies. One of its original features is the formal Versailles-like canal, the Long Water, created in the 1680s. There are various gothic buildings (many of these the work of Batty Langley) and over 40 statues. There is also a conservatory giving the possibility of finding synanthropic species such as *Leucocoprinus* spp. Those who do not know the site may like to have a look at the Wrest Park website in advance of the meeting. It is a fascinating place and has proved to be rich in native flora, fungi and invertebrates. Wrest Park is reached by turning east off the A6 at Silsoe onto Park Avenue. Meet at 10:00am (or at 13.30) at English Heritage car park TL088355, MK45 4HR. Staff member Amy Moffett will join us there and is keen to accompany us. **To benefit from free entry, pre-booking with Alan Outen is essential no later than 1 October [alanouten\(at\)virginmedia.com](mailto:alanouten(at)virginmedia.com)** but please be punctual so we can enter from the free car park as a group. There is a good cafe and toilets and as there is plenty here to occupy people for the day so you may wish to bring lunch or purchase refreshments there. (It is not essential that we stay together once inside, nor that we leave together.) Leader: Alan Outen

### **TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, MAULDEN 8pm**

**Talk** Kordofan Giraffe Project by Dominique Rhoades. Giraffe all over Africa are in serious decline, with less than 111,000 in total spread over four separate species, the decline has been coined 'The Silent Extinction', because while all were focusing on the decline of other African megafauna, the giraffe has been largely ignored, even by conservationists.

There are thought to be less than 2000 of the critically endangered Kordofan giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*), with estimates of 1200 of this subspecies in the Republic of Chad alone. This relative safe zone in Central Africa is home to 60% of this subspecies, and potentially much more, as the remaining 40% has been unable to be fully assessed due to civil unrest, with 48 known individuals in DRC, 11 known in

Cameroon and Sudan and South Sudan unable to be assessed at all due to safety concerns.

Chad has taken responsibility for its wildlife by fiercely managing its National Parks to protect endangered fauna and flora. Zakouma National Park was formed in 1963 for the purpose of preserving the last 50 Kordofan giraffe. Today it is ranked as one of the best African wildlife spectacles, providing habitat and protection from poachers, but lacking in scientific research to enable effective conservation strategies.

This is the purpose of the Kordofan Giraffe Project, set up by Dunstable girl Dominique Rhoades, all funding is gathered by grass roots fundraising events, and from conservation grants. Come along and learn all about the threats facing giraffe, and African wildlife in general, the aims of the project, current outcomes, and insights into an ongoing conservation project in central Africa. And enjoy photos of the giraffe and other Chadian wildlife!

In partnership with Giraffe Conservation Foundation (collaborative information sharing), African Parks Network (manage the research site, provide practical support in field) and the Chadian Government (permissions). This is an opportunity to make a donation.

### **TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, MAULDEN 8pm**

Saffron Summerfield - Why birds sing

### **THURSDAY 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER, AYLESBURY 10:30am**

**Visit** Greatmoor Energy from Waste facility. The Visitor Centre is designed to promote and inform visitors about benefits of using waste to produce renewable energy as well as educating about waste reduction, reuse and recycling. Must be able to manage narrow walkways, some on metal grating, including some at height. Long trousers and long sleeves must be worn. Booking essential and places limited. Please contact Sheila Brooke [brooke.se\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:brooke.se(at)btinternet.com) 01525 873396 for further information.

### **SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, CLOPHILL 10:30 (F)**

**Walk** "Rock around Clophill" with Derek Turner of Bedfordshire Geology Group, for a 2 mile walk looking at exposures of the Greensand rock and considering how it affects the village and the surrounding landscape. The route will use minor roads, pavements and footpaths which may be muddy. Meet at the junction of Readshill and Back St, Clophill, MK45 4AG, TL080379. Refreshments at the Stone Jug or Flying Horse after. Leader: Derek Turner

### **TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, MAULDEN 8pm**

**Talk** Arrivals and Departures – changes in Bedfordshire's moth fauna since the mid 1990s Andy & Melissa are the county's Moth Recorders, a post they have held for macro-moths since October 2006 and micro-moths since March 2016. A look at species that have been added to the county and those we have lost since the publication of *The Butterflies & Moths of Bedfordshire* in 1997.

### **TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, MAULDEN 8pm**

David Darrel-Lambert - Birdwatching in London. Why our capital city is so good for birds, and how it boasts such an amazing range of habitats.

### **TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER, MAULDEN 7:30pm**

**Christmas Social** evening with seasonal refreshments and raffle. Bring along a selection of your photos (on a CD or memory stick) and some food to share. Doors open 7:30pm

### **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, STEWARTBY 9am**

**A morning walk** around Stewartby Lake. Meet in the car park off Bedford Road in the layby TL001426 for a 2 -3 hour walk. Leader: Peter Marshall

### **THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, WOBURN 9:30am (F)**

**Boxing Day Walk** through Woburn Park. Meet at the Woburn Village car park, opposite the church in Park Street, SP950331, MK17 9PG. Leader: Mary Sheridan

**If you wish to know more about any of the upcoming events, please contact either**

**Sheila Brooke: [brooke.se\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:brooke.se(at)btinternet.com) 01525 873396**

**or Julia Powell: [JuliaCPowell800\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:JuliaCPowell800(at)gmail.com) 01582 661328**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The BNHS thanks all who have kindly given permission to visit and to hold field meetings on their properties.