



Wild About Beds

Winter 2020

Another award for a long-standing BNHS member

by Wilf Powell

In the last issue we reported that Alan Outen had been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the BNHS. There was even more good news for Alan in November. The BNHS had nominated Alan for an award in the annual National Biodiversity Network (NBN) awards for outstanding contributions to biological recording in the UK. I am delighted to report that Alan was awarded the runner-up award in the terrestrial recording category. These awards are presented during the annual NBN conference, which is held in Nottingham. Unfortunately, Alan had already departed on a family holiday to Australia and so on November 13 I had the privilege of attending the award ceremony on Alan's behalf to collect his prize and certificate.

The National Biodiversity Network is a collaborative partnership dedicated to collating and sharing biodiversity information. All the species records collected by the 24 county recorders appointed by the BNHS go to the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre (BRMC), which is an NBN partner. The BNHS is delighted that one of its long-serving members has been recognised for his outstanding contributions to biological recording over the years. Our warmest congratulations go to Alan. All the winners and runners-up in the 2019 awards are listed on the NBN website – www.nbn.org.uk, together with photos taken at the awards ceremony.



In this 193rd issue:

Contents

Programme ideas	2
A note from the editor	3
Help wanted: editors	3
Brown Hare survey results	4
Autumn programme highlights	5

Contents

Focus on Facebook	6
New book on grassland plants	7
Pre-order the new BNHS book!	8
Upcoming events	11

Wild About Beds is the newsletter of:



The Bedfordshire Natural History Society
www.bnhs.org.uk
Registered charity number 268659



BedsLife
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.

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.

Editor: Heather Webb

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

Email: 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 **15 March 2020** please.

Thank you in anticipation.

The next Wild About Beds will be published in **March 2020**. Please note that any views are independent of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society and BedsLife.

Programme ideas

by Julia Powell

Sheila and I welcome ideas for walks, outings and talks from all members and try to incorporate as many as possible. Please let us know of any places you would like to visit from April through to August next year. If you would like to lead a walk around your local patch all the better, but if not still let us know where you would like to go. All we ask is that we end up where we started and at the designated time!

It will not be long now until we start to put together the summer programme. Please send your ideas to me or Sheila especially suggestions for outings in Autumn and early Spring as these are more difficult to find. We have ideas for about half the winter talks but would welcome other suggestions.

Julia Powell juliacpowell800@gmail.com 01582 661328

Sheila Brooke brookese@btinternet.com 01525 873396



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.

From the editor's desk

It was with enormous sadness that I heard of the passing of Richard Woolnough on 23 October. When I arrived from Canada in 2005 to work as Bedfordshire's Biodiversity Officer, my new boss took me to see some of the county's most important sites and meet some of the county's most influential people for nature conservation. Richard's office at the Greensand Trust was our first stop.

It quickly became evident to me that this new job was going to be a good fit.

I loved Richard's enthusiasm and unorthodoxy. I can't count the number of times I heard him say 'let's just do it: we'll figure out the money later!', and the result was that we did some really great work here in Bedfordshire. Over the years I was invited all over the country, to speak at conferences and other events about the fantastic work we were doing on green infrastructure, wildlife site sensitivity, habitat mapping and other initiatives. Richard had been involved in pretty much all of it. That the Greensand Trust is the thriving organisation it is today is a tribute to Richard's determination that our little – and often overlooked – county has some very special places, and that those places should be celebrated and protected.

Richard was a 'Marmite' guy, and not everyone was a fan of his exuberant and direct style. If there was ever an 'outside the box' thinker he was it. But his commitment to Bedfordshire's natural history cannot be denied. Perhaps my less-reserved North American nature meant we saw a bit of ourselves in each other. Certainly I loved working with him. I loved our chats, and I loved how he found my pronunciation of 'cookie' so entertaining that he would often ask me to say it just for fun.

At my 2012 leaving do from the Wildlife Trust, John Comont said that back in 2005 the applications for the new Biodiversity Officer post were distributed to a number of conservation managers for review. Richard returned mine with 'COULD BE INTERESTING!' written at the top.

It was interesting. And it was wonderful. And I enjoyed every minute of it. Rest in peace, dear Richard, and thank you for everything.

Your chance to develop and practice your editing skills with the BNHS

by Rosemary Brind, Honorary Editor, BNHS

Do you like to read good, clear writing that doesn't leave you scratching your head? Do you think that a comma needs to be in the right place? Would you like to help keep up the standards of the BNHS. If the answer is yes, then this is your opportunity.

Melissa Banthorpe has been Editor, Part 1 of the Bedfordshire Naturalist for 15 years (volumes 59–73, in press, for the years 2004–2018). Melissa is standing down as Editor once the current issue for 2018 is produced. Barry Nightingale was Editor, Part 2 Bedfordshire Bird Report for 14 years (volumes 58–71 for the years 2003–2016). Barry has very generously continued to play a major role in editing volumes 72–73 (in press) in the absence of a successor but, understandably, enough is enough!

So, we are now seeking members to help with editorial work, whether taking on one of the two lead Editor roles, or providing assistance with parts of the editing and proofreading. For example, Sean D'Arcy is the Photographic Editor for the Bird Report and Sophia Braybrooke edits the articles. The work will include spotting and correcting spelling, punctuation and grammar so that articles are clearly expressed. A style guide has been developed to help ensure consistency in the way in which, for example, dates should be written. Help will be given in developing skills.

What to do next?

If you would like to know more contact Rosemary Brind : [journal\(at\)bnhs.org.uk](mailto:journal(at)bnhs.org.uk), or call 01234 402709.

Thank you to our outgoing Editors

It has been a real pleasure working with Melissa and Barry and we would like to thank them both for all their hard work and dedication in producing two outstanding journals each year. With their support the journals have evolved and are now printed in full colour throughout, enabling the amazing photographs taken by members to be placed next to the reports and articles they relate to.

Brown Hare Survey

by Ken Winder

The brown hare *Lepus europaeus* is one of the most iconic symbols of the English countryside. Various national surveys which have taken place have shown that the eastern counties are the stronghold for hares in England.

A survey was carried out in Bedfordshire by the Wildlife Trust between 1996 and 1998 which showed an extensive, though patchy, distribution of hares throughout the county. Recently however, it has been noticed that hares are no longer being seen in places where they have been found in the past. The Bedfordshire Mammal Group therefore decided to undertake a survey to establish whether or not the hares' range has changed.

The survey began January 2017 and was completed at the end of March 2019. Results were predominately submitted by volunteers via the Mammal Group and the BNHS Adnoto system, though several were obtained through other sources.

After analysing all of the data a series of tables and maps were produced in order to compare the information between the two surveys. Though you can never be certain that the lack of a record in a particular area is just because nobody surveyed there, based on the many we received, it does appear that the actual range of the hare has diminished over this period. This appeared most significant in certain areas of the county, especially in the north and areas east of Biggleswade and south west of Bedford.

If this comparison is correct, then the reasons for this need examining. Since the previous survey was done, there has been a great deal of development within Bedfordshire which could have an effect on hare distribution. Certainly this could be applied to the areas around Biggleswade and Bedford where there has been extensive house building along with associated infrastructure. The change in distribution in the north of the county is a bit more difficult to explain. Apart from urban development, factors for the apparent reduction in range could be any changes in agricultural practices, hunting, illegal hare coursing and predation, though there is no direct evidence to indicate any substantial effect on hare distribution due to these.

One interesting possibility is disease. Recently there have been reports of RHDV2 (rabbit haemorrhagic disease) being identified as the cause of death of hares in some eastern counties. There is also a very similar disease known as European Brown Hare Syndrome, which can lead to sudden die-offs of hares. If this has happened in Bedfordshire, then the additional pressures of development etc. could create problems in the recovery of the population.

Certainly it would be worth continuing to monitor the population, especially in the areas where they appeared to be absent. Possibly in the future another survey could be carried out to see if there has been any further change in distribution.

Our thanks go to everyone who assisted with this survey, with special thanks to Jackie Ulyett for providing all the data from the original survey and for producing the distribution maps.

10km area	1996–1998 survey			2017–2019 survey		
	no. of +ve tetrads	no. of hares	no. of recorders	no. of +ve tetrads	no. of hares	no. of recorders
SP91	0	0	0	0	0	0
SP92	4	11	6	3	5	1
SP93	7	25	7	9	105	14
SP94	6	21	7	5	10	4 + BTO
SP95	8	25	9	4	29	3 + BTO
SP96	2	2	2	0	0	0
TL01	2	2	2	2	5	3
TL02	7	25	14	5	18	9
TL03	13	69	13	14	50	20 + BTO

Issue 193 – December 2019

10km area	1996–1998 survey			2017–2019 survey		
	no. of +ve tetrads	no. of hares	no. of recorders	no. of +ve tetrads	no. of hares	no. of recorders
TL04	12	41	12	5	64	9 + BTO
TL05	9	24	11	7	18	8
TL06	13	34	7	4	6	4
TL11	0	0	0	3	22	5
TL12	4	31	6	4	14	5
TL13	19	129	12	14	117	19 + BTO
TL14	17	63	18	19	194	33 + BTO
TL15	7	11	6	8	21	9 + BTO
TL16	0	0	0	0	0	0
TL23	0	0	0	1	5	1
TL24	11	24	9	8	21	8 + BTO
TL25	1	1	1	2	19	1
TOTAL	142	538		117	723	

Autumn Highlights 2019

31 October Greatmoor Energy From Waste Visit

A group of us ventured out of the county to visit Greatmoor, the Buckinghamshire energy from waste (EfW) facility. It started operating in 2016 and processes 110,000 tonnes of Buckinghamshire household waste, as well as some from other areas, each year, generating enough electricity to power 40,000 homes.

After a preliminary presentation we were suited, booted, hatted, gloved and goggled before being led round the facility by Jez, who very clearly explained the various processes involved. We saw the waste come in, the huge grabs transferring it to the bunkers and the furnace, the waste burning at high temperature and the resulting ash.

It was informative and entertaining and definitely worth a visit. A December Moth was spotted on the path to the car park. A pleasant surprise was the presence of two Peregrines perched on the building but they don't seem to have nested - yet!



Greatmoor energy from waste facility. Photo by Julia Powell



All ready for the tour (above) and checking out the Greatmoor furnace (left). Photos by Sheila Brooke

–Sheila Brooke

9 November Rock Around Clophill Walk



A short walk with Derek Turner of the Bedfordshire Geology Group around Clophill to explain the Greensand geology and showing the use of the local greensand stone in the buildings of the village. We ended at The Stone Jug for a pint and a bite to eat. The weather was splendid with Autumn colour all the way.

–John Pitts

If you would like to go on the 14 January visit to Tring Museum, you must book with Julia Powell by 5 January



Focus on Facebook

by Wilf Powell

As we move towards winter, wildlife sightings posted on our Facebook page tend to get fewer. However, it still remains a very useful means of getting identifications or more information on the flora and fauna that you encounter in your gardens or whilst wandering around in our beautiful countryside.

For example, Trevor Morgan posted photos of a small flea beetle that he found on the inside of his patio door in Houghton Regis. This was quickly identified as *Longitarsis dorsalis* by Colin Le Boutillier who had found a specimen of the same species earlier this year and had it identified online using the Beetles of Britain and Ireland Facebook Group. He also sent photos of the beast to me and I was able to confirm the identification. For those who aren't beetle fanatics, flea beetles belong to the leaf beetle family Chrysomelidae and have enlarged hind femora (think of enlarged thighs), allowing them to jump like fleas to escape predators.

James Bonfield was admiring a fungus in Wrestlingworth when he spotted a small insect sitting on it. Not knowing what it was, he posted a photo which allowed Stephen Plummer to identify it as a winged aphid, probably the Giant Willow Aphid, one of our largest aphid species. Most aphids exist mainly as wingless (apterous) females for much of the time, producing winged generations (alates) for dispersal purposes in response to overcrowding, food plant deterioration or climate triggers. The apterous females are the original cloned animal as they produce live young without mating (parthenogenesis), their offspring being clones of themselves. Their reproductive rate is phenomenal with individual females being able to produce several offspring per day and they exhibit what is known as 'telescopic generations', which means that when an aphid is born it already has its own offspring developing as embryos inside it. If aphids didn't have a multitude of natural enemies, we would soon be knee-deep in them.



Giant Willow Aphid *Tuberculachnus salignus*. Photo by Mick Talbot

Speaking of fungi, David Barnes posted photos of a fungus he had come across growing in an old tree trunk. Charlotte Tenneson thought it could be *Pholiota aurivella*, sometimes known as Golden Scaly Cap, but quite rightly pointed out that it is very difficult to positively identify most fungi just from photographs.



Fuligo septica, aka Dog's Vomit Slime Mould or Scrambled Egg Slime. Photo by Dick Culbert

Mandy Holloway also posted excellent photos of several fungi she had encountered during a walk around Bryant's Lane Quarry, Heath and Reach. Autumn is the time for fungus forays and whilst doing a foray at the John O'Gaunt golf club, Stephen Thompson came across red-coloured oysterling fungi growing on fallen Poplar tree trunks. These proved to be a very rare fungus, *Crepidotus cinnabarinus*, which was first discovered in Britain as recently as 1995. Stephen kindly posted a photo of one of those he found.

Perhaps the most bizarre finding was that of Michelle Chalkley, who posted photos of an organism she had come across that was coating a patch of grass. It was suggested that this was the Slime Mould *Fuligo septica*, which is charmingly known as Dog's Vomit Slime Mould or Scrambled Egg Slime. John Pitts posted a link to an online description of it by the University of Wisconsin.

Several people reported their recent bird sightings, including a Barn Owl seen by Esther Clarke flying over the Paddocks at Blows Downs on the outskirts of Dunstable on November 14 and a small flock of Fieldfares seen by Ann de Winter whilst walking around Langford on November 3. Sheila Brooke had been delighted by a couple of avian visitors to her Toddington garden recently, with a Nuthatch coming to sunflower hearts on November 4 and a Grey Wagtail visiting her garden pond on November 19.

Finally, our thanks must go to Brian Laney, joint recorder of wildflowers for Northamptonshire, who reported that he had ventured over the border to do some voluntary maintenance work to help look after the only remaining population of Field Cowheat *Melampyrum arvense* in Bedfordshire. Apparently, this striking plant doesn't occur at all in Northamptonshire. Brian included a couple of before and after photos to show the work he had done which prompted our county flowering plant recorder, John Wakely, as well as Graham Bellamy, to thank him for his efforts. If you read this Brian, many thanks from me as well.



Field cow-wheat *Melampyrum arvense*. Photo by Arthur Chapman



Hot off the press

Speaking of plants, you might be interested in a new book published in October:

Grassland plants of the British and Irish lowlands: ecology, threats and management

Stroh, P.A., Walker, K.J., Smith, S.L.N., Jefferson, R.G., Pinches, C. & Blackstock, T.H.

Published by the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland. Available from the NHBS and other natural history book sellers.

The pre-publication offer for the new BNHS book is now open, and continues until 31st January 2020

Bedfordshire – our changing habitats and wildlife

A photographic record

by Richard Revels, Graham Bellamy and Chris Boon

This book *Bedfordshire – Our changing habitats and wildlife* is the result of a project looking at changes to the county's wildlife habitats since the BNHS publication *Wild Bedfordshire* in 2000. Site photographs are featured along with images of some of the species to be found in the key habitats.

Richard Revels FRPS has revisited and photographed habitats and sites featured in the earlier work, as well as many additional sites, and a rich selection feature in the book. The authors are Richard Revels FRPS, Graham Bellamy and Chris Boon. John Comont has contributed an introductory chapter on change in Bedfordshire in the last 20 years.

There is a special pre-publication offer of £15 if collected at the launch on Sunday 26 April 2020 (details to be announced on the website www.bnhs.org.uk). Otherwise £15 + £4.25 p&p to UK addresses. Post-publication price £20 + £4.45 p&p.

The pre-publication offer is available until 31 January 2020.

The habitat chapter is divided into five sections: Woodland, Mire and Heath, Grassland, Freshwater and Other Habitats. Each section has an introduction discussing the habitats and highlighting some changes over the last two decades. The sites featured in each section are from across the county, generally have public access and many are nature reserves. The site photographs are often accompanied by images of some of the wildlife that may be seen in those habitats.

An important chapter on 20 years of change in Bedfordshire's countryside has been contributed by John Comont, Conservation Director of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Previously County Ecologist for Bedfordshire, John has an extensive knowledge of the wildlife habitats of the county.

A third chapter of photographs highlights a selection of species whose distributions appear to have changed in recent years, including species new to the county.

- Photographs by Richard Revels FRPS, co-author and renowned natural history photographer
- Photographs of Bedfordshire's most important wildlife sites
- Superb images of some of Bedfordshire's wildlife
- Important chapter on change in the past 20 years

Format: 246 × 189mm, hardbound, c.160 pages, illustrated in colour throughout.

ISBN 978-1-9162417-0-1



Use the newsletter code NL419 for
10% discount on **microscopy** equipment

Bedfordshire – our changing habitats and wildlife

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



PRE-PUBLICATION:
£15
plus £4.25 p&p
Offer closes
31st January
2020

Publication:
April 2020

Format:
246 × 189mm,
hardbound, c.160 pages,
illustrated in colour
throughout

Pre-publication:
£15 + £4.25 p&p

Post-publication:
£20 + £4.25 p&p

This book *Bedfordshire – our changing habitats and wildlife* is the result of a project looking at changes to the county's wildlife habitats since the BNHS publication *Wild Bedfordshire* in 2000. Site photographs are featured along with images of some of the species to be found in the key habitats.

Richard Revels FRPS has revisited and photographed habitats and sites featured in the earlier work, as well as many additional sites, and a rich selection feature in this book. The authors are Richard Revels, Graham Bellamy and Chris Boon. John Comont has contributed an introductory chapter on change in Bedfordshire in the last 20 years.



ORDER FORM

Bedfordshire – our changing habitats and wildlife
A photographic record

ISBN 978-1-9162417-0-1

Cheques payable to : Bedfordshire Natural History Society

Send to : Mike Bird, BNHS Treasurer, 69 Cotefield Drive, Leighton Buzzard LU7 3DN

.....
Please send me _____ copy/copies of *Bedfordshire – our changing habitats and wildlife* at the pre-publication offer price of £15 per copy (+ £4.25 p&p to UK addresses if applicable). I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to Bedfordshire Natural History Society.

Please tick here [] if you plan to collect your copy/copies at the book launch on Sunday 26 April – details of which will be posted on the BNHS website www.bnhs.org.uk

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Telephone _____

Email address (for acknowledgement of order) _____

Published by Bedfordshire Natural History Society with financial support from charitable trusts.

The Bedfordshire Natural History Society is a registered charity: No: 268659

More details of the Society's publications are on the website www.bnhs.org.uk

Hoopoe would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year





Events Programme Winter 2020

Please check the website 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 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 14th JANUARY, TRING 2pm

Visit Tring Natural History Museum for a guided tour around the galleries learning about the iconic specimens, the building and the man who founded it, Walter Rothschild. The tour will cost £10pp but this includes cake and a hot drink which may have to be taken first if we have a very large group. **Book with Julia Powell before January 5th, [JuliaCPowell800\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:JuliaCPowell800(at)gmail.com) or 01582 661328.**

TUESDAY 21st JANUARY, MAULDON 8pm

Talk “Is it a bird, is it a plane? No.... it’s a Wildlife Trust drone” by Josh Hellon, (Wildlife Trust BCN, Monitoring & Research Manager) who will show how drone technology is being used to help with the Trust’s conservation work. The talk will cover how the Trust map tree species at Brampton Wood, heather at Cooper’s Hill, wetland at the Great Fen, and scrub cover at numerous sites. He will try to dispel a few myths about drones and show how they can be safely used to give us a bird’s eye view of nature reserves.

TUESDAY 28th JANUARY, MAULDEN 8pm 

Talk TV presenter Mike Dilger provides an insight into the creation of Argentina’s newest national park - Mar Chiquita, which plays host to all three species of South American Flamingo and thousands of migratory waterbirds.

WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY, BEDFORD 10:30am

Walk around Priory Country Park owned and managed by Bedford Borough Council. Priory CP is a carefully managed mosaic of habitats, consisting of meadows, woodland/scrub, lakes and waterways. Home to a large variety of birds, invertebrates and bats. Otters are a frequent visitor too. The meadows are full of flowers and butterflies in the summer and the lakes are a popular haunt for wildfowl in the winter. Nestled in a bend of the River Great Ouse, the history of the land that makes up Priory CP is long and varied. From post-industrial to a Roman farmstead, an Augustine priory to coal fired power station, isolation hospital to Victorian railway line.

Priory CP is a thriving, multi-award winning Green Flag Park and a Country wildlife site which is for the people but managed for the wildlife. Meet in the car park, MK41 9DJ, TL072493. Leader: Jon Bishop

TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY, MAULDEN 8pm

Talk “Acoustics by the Sea with BBC Coast” by Professor David Sharp from the OU, who has made four appearances on BBC Coast and was an academic consultant for the series. He will discuss filming science-related items for the programme, covering features on sound mirrors, foghorns, squeaking sand and Fingal’s cave. Included are plenty of video clips and he covers the science and some of the tricks used when filming for television.

Professor David Sharp has made four appearances on BBC Coast and was an academic consultant for the series. In his talk, David will discuss his experiences filming science-related items for the programme, covering features on sound mirrors, foghorns, squeaking sand and Fingal’s cave. The talk includes plenty of video clips from the Coast programmes and covers the science underpinning the features, as well as giving inside info regarding some of the tricks employed when filming for television.

SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY, SANDY 9:30am 

Morning walk around RSPB Sandy Lodge Reserve for a variety of birds. Meet in the gatehouse car park, SG19 2DL, TL191484. Leader: Sheila Alliez

SATURDAY 7th MARCH, LANGFORD 10:30am (F)

Walk through Henlow Common and Langford Meadows, Local Nature Reserve, taking in Baulk Wood, farmland and riverside paths. Some parts could be wet and muddy, and there could be cattle on the meadow. Park in the overflow car park at Langford Garden Centre, Henlow Rd, Langford. SG18 9SD, TL182400. Leader: Betty Cooke

TUESDAY 17th MARCH, MAULDEN 7:30pm

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. **PLEASE NOTE START TIME.**

TUESDAY 31st MARCH, MAULDEN 8pm 

Talk Dr Michael Brooke - Far from land. The mysterious lives of seabirds

SATURDAY 4th APRIL, LEIGHTON BUZZARD 10:30am (F)

Walk around Rammamere and King’s Wood, covering two contrasting habitats. Rammamere Heath, one of the largest areas of restored heathland in the vicinity, is owned by Tarmac and managed by the Greensand Trust. King’s Wood, a designated National Nature Reserve, is part of the largest semi-natural ancient woodland in the county. Covering over 60 hectares, it is owned jointly by Central Beds Council, the Wildlife Trust, the Greensand Trust and Tarmac, and there are also a number of private plots. It was originally designated a NNR in 1995 and the area designated was recently extended in 2018. The whole area is home to many interesting plants, birds, insects and other taxa, some of which are quite rare. Meet in Stockgrove car park, nearest post code LU7 0BA, SP919293. Leader: Bob Hook

SUNDAY 19th APRIL, PEGSDON 8am 

Morning walk over Pegsdon Hills for spring migrants. Park and meet in car park of Live and Let Live Inn, Pegsdon, TL121302. Leader: Jon Palmer

TUESDAY 21st APRIL, MAULDEN 8pm

Talk “The Ladybirds of Britain, including some of the smallest” by Dr Peter Brown, Senior Lecturer in Zoology, Anglia Ruskin University and author of the recently published *Field Guide to the Ladybirds of Great Britain and Ireland*. He also gave a very interesting talk at the last BNHS Conference. Britain has at least 47 resident ladybird species and many of them are present in Bedfordshire. This talk will delve into ladybird habitats, distribution and interactions between species and will include discussion of some of our tiniest ladybird species.

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.