

SEAFORD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2019

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Additional information

2nd April – Beach Combing/Beach Clean/Rockpooling

Please note the start time of 2.00 p.m. due to tide times.

We will meet at the Bastion Steps Public Car Park (TQ 4114 0072) at 2.00 p.m. The Car Park is free, and is located at the bottom (seashore) end of Steyning Avenue. Coming from Newhaven, Steyning Avenue is on the left, just after The Pantry Café (TQ 4119 0092). Free parking is also allowed along Steyning Avenue itself, or failing these options, at Steyning Avenue Car Park which is at the junction of the avenue and the main A259. We will explore the strandline as the tide recedes, and do our bit for the local environment by collecting litter as we go. Excellent rock pools are also there to be explored as the tide goes out.

Please wear suitable, sturdy footwear, and gloves if possible, and allow for the weather to be cooler on the beach than onshore.

16th April – Woods Mill

Please note the 11.00 start time. This is to allow an earlier visit by schoolchildren and parents to get clear – and create space for us to park.

After parking at Woods Mill, cross the bridge and turn right to find The Mill. There will be a tea and coffee provided, and a short introduction to the history of the reserve by Michael Blencowe, followed by a walk around the reserve to find the April highlights. Because of the later start, we are unlikely to finish before 1.00 p.m., so you may wish to bring your own lunch and carry on exploring afterwards.

30th April – Belle Tout

It should be possible for us all to use the car park closest to the bottom of the driveway up to Belle Tout. If this is full, use the next parking area towards Beachy Head, and walk back.

Both car parks are 'Pay and Display'.

14th May – Dawn Chorus, Abbots Wood

Please note the 5.15 a.m. start for this walk.

Not surprisingly, this walk begins from the main Abbots Wood Car Park at daybreak, which will be around 5.15 a.m., and we will not leave the car park area until after that time. We will ensure that you are guided back to the car park by 9.00 a.m. at the latest.

We may venture down rough tracks, so please use appropriate footwear. There should be no steep hills.

4th June – Members Only outing to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

See separately circulated flyer and booking form for this event.

11th June – Cradle Valley

Some of this walk will inevitably be steep, and along single file tracks which are very uneven. Sturdy footwear is advised, and to be prepared for some fairly strenuous sections.

25th June – Knowlands farm

From the centre of Barcombe Cross, head North towards Mount Pleasant (Spithurst Road). In 0.6 miles, Knowlands Farm is down a drive on the West side of the road at a bright red telephone kiosk. Go down the drive, over the cattle grid, and park in the field on the right, just before the pond.

This woodland walk is especially noted for its butterflies, and at this time of year, Purple Hairstreak, Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral should be about. All told, 13 species of Dragonfly and 33 species of butterfly have been seen here, including 19 in one day in July.

9th July – Crowlink

Turn right off the A259, at the top of the hill going down into East Dean (opposite the road to Friston/Jevington), and drive around the back of the pond. Follow the lane to a Car Park at TV 5499 8790. This is Pay and Display unless you are National Trust member and use your membership card to pay. We will meet at this location and walk to Crowlink pond (about ½ to ¾ mile). For those who find the distance difficult – and especially the uphill walk back – a Landrover lift will be available.

The event will involve identifying as many different forms of wildlife as possible in the pond, and surrounding grassland. The pond is known as a significant wildlife haven, and we will be pond dipping. In the afternoon there will be the opportunity to do further ID work at Birling Gap for those who wish to do so. Parking at Birling Gap will be the same as at Crowlink, and you may want to take a packed lunch, or use the Birling Gap Café.

23rd July – Old Lodge Nature Reserve

Turn right off the A22 onto the B2026 at the roundabout North of Maresfield (TQ 4614 2536) continuing on this road left at the next junction (about 200 m). Stay on the B2026, heading North for about 3.5 miles, where you should keep left at a fork, heading for Hartfield – still on the B2026. After about ¼ mile note a conspicuous white sign for Old Lodge (a private drive). About 30m past this sign is a less conspicuous one at the entrance to Old Lodge Nature Reserve Car Park.

We will be focussing on finding Dragonflies and Damselflies around the ponds in this SWT reserve, which is home to more species than Seaford Head, but there will be plenty of other interesting wildlife to look at. The terrain will be rough in places, so please bring sturdy footwear.

6th August – Abbots Wood, Moth Trapping

Meet at the main Abbots Wood Car Park at 9.00 a.m.. If the chosen trapping site is not close to the Car Park, you will be directed to the site at that time. We will be identifying and releasing moths as soon as possible after 9.00 a.m., although the complete process will take some time.

N.B. In the event of a walk having to be cancelled, we will circulate an email to all members. If you are doubtful about an event, and NOT on email, telephone Paul on 01323 896123.

To minimise our environmental impact, we encourage members to share transport to these events whenever practical. Please contact the lift co-ordinator, Coralie Tiffin (coralie.tiffin@gmail.com), if you need a lift, or if you can offer a lift to someone else.