

SEAFORD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2020

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Additional information

21st April – Knowlands farm

From the centre of Barcombe Cross, head North towards Mount Pleasant (Spithurst Road). In 0.6 miles, on entering the 30 mph speed limits of Mount Pleasant look for a white house on the left. Knowlands Farm is down a drive just beyond the house. If you reach a red telephone kiosk you have overshot the entrance. Go down the drive, over the cattle grid, and park in the field on the right, just before the pond.

The focus of this walk will be the diverse range of trees in the wood (28 species recorded), but it should also be a good time for Spring birds and wildflowers. Sturdy footwear is advised as some paths may be uneven with short steep sections.

5th May – Members Only outing to Bedgebury

See separately circulated flyer and booking form for this event.

19th May – Butts Lane Meadow

This area of herb-rich chalk grassland was reduced in size by 50% after grazing ceased and scrub invaded. A five year restoration plan was started in 2015. As well as the restored meadow, the site has a boundary of mature Ash woodland and scrub together with a dewpond, creating a patchwork of wildlife habitats. At this time of year there should be a good showing of spring flowers on the South-facing site, along with associated insects. The site is especially good for Bees and Hoverflies

Butts Lane can be found at the junction of Wish Hill and Coopers Hill, both of which are exits off the A2270 at Willingdon. There is free on-street parking in the village including some available parking at the lower end of Butts Lane itself. This may be somewhat limited, and an alternative is the Butts Brow pay-and-display car park at the top of the lane. The entrance to the Meadow is part-way along Butts Lane on the Southern side. It's about a 5 minute walk down to the entrance from the Butts Brow car park, and 10 minutes back up the steep hill.

2nd June – Eastbourne Levels

The car park start point is free and can be reached via Polegate and the A27, or Eastbourne and the A259 – your choice!

Via Polegate, take the A27 towards Bexhill and Hastings, and then turn right at the roundabout onto the A22 towards Eastbourne. Go straight over the next roundabout in a couple of hundred yards, remaining on the A22 for about 1.5 miles to the next roundabout, taking the first exit, left, onto the B2191 (Willingdon Drive). Take the first right turn (maybe 300 yds), onto Sevenoaks Road, and the car park will be on your right in about ½ mile at a Recreation Ground.

Via Eastbourne take either the A259 towards Pevensey until you reach the Langney Roundabout (if you reach the roundabout by the retail park and The Crumbles, you have overshot by one roundabout). At Langney Roundabout take the B2104 (Langney Rise), away from the coast, and then take the first left (in about 150 yds) into Sevenoaks Road. The car park will then be on the left in about ½ mile.

Or, if you follow the seafront in Eastbourne, continue to the roundabout by the Sovereign Centre. Take the second exit (Lottbridge Drive), to join the A259 in ¼ mile at the next roundabout. Turn right at this roundabout, and on to the next, which is Langney Roundabout, and then follow directions as noted above.

The walk will be over flat but rough ground, looking in detail at the wetland plants and animals found on this part of the Eastbourne/Pevensey Levels.

16th June – Charleston Reedbeds

We will meet in the FC Pay-and-Display car park in Littlington Road. We explore the reedbeds with permission of Richard Brown, the landowner, and it is important that we do not use the grass verge in the road for parking.

Tim will be telling us about the history of the reedbeds and their importance, leading us around the area. The group members must follow Tim closely, staying together for safety reasons and to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the nesting birds.

30th June – Seaford Head Moth Trapping

Note the earlier 9.00 start time for this event.

Traps will have been running all night in the area of the turning circle just beyond the barrier on the track leading to the Coastguard Cottages. Use the main car park and drop in from 9.00 a.m. to see night's catch, its identification and release.

14th July – Friston Gallops

This walk will cover much of the transect route used to survey the butterflies for which this area is famous. Hopefully the timing will be right to see Chalkhill Blues and Fritillaries. There will be some fairly steep parts and rough ground to cover.

11th August – Cradle Valley

The focus of this walk will be the important butterfly population and the chalk downland vegetation which attracts them. 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 August – Southerham Nature Reserve

The walk will start from the bridge over Cliffe High Street and focus on the species associated with this rich chalk grassland. Target species include Silver-spotted Skipper; Hornet Robberfly; Adonis Blue; Great-green Bush-cricket and Autumn Ladies Tresses.

There are a number of pay-and-display car parks in Lewes which are quite close to our meeting point, but beware that some are short-stay only. A good alternative is to use the train from Seaford to Lewes Station which is about 10 minutes' walk from the bridge.

8th September – Tide Mills

This walk will focus on the plant communities between the Buckle car park and the Tide Mills area.

22nd September – Seaford Head Bird Spotting

The two similar walks seeking out the local and vagrant bird species will inevitably involve uneven and steep sections. Both walks will start from the main car park at the noted times.

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.