

## **SNHS Walks 2024**

### **9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Seaford Head, James Duncan**

For this opening walk of the year, setting off from South Hill Barn at 07.00, James will lead the group round Seaford Head mainly to spot birds and provide his inimitable commentary on what is seen. This first walk will end about 09.00. A second walk around Seaford Head will commence at 10.00, again led by James. Refreshments may be available at the barn after the second walk but it is probably too soon to know that.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 Cuckmere Valley, Colin Whiteman**

This walk of the 2024 programme covers the east side of the Cuckmere Valley from Exceat carpark to the beach via the road and footpaths and, conditions permitting, back via the river embankment and the causeway footpath alongside the A259. Besides plants and wildlife a little bit of geology may also enter into the discussion. Hopefully refreshments will be available at Exceat café or the Cuckmere Inn.

### **7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Ditchling Common Country Park, Colin Whiteman**

It is hoped that this walk will make up for last year when the weather conditions delayed flowering and the scale and variety did not match expectations. Hopefully bluebells will provide a main feature supplemented by coppiced woodlands, open grassy areas and small lakes.

### **21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 Markstakes Common, Rupert Hall**

Markstakes Common (MC) is a small nature reserve with a mix of landscapes; grassland, ancient woodland, wood pasture and mire. The small area of grassland was once overrun by bracken but the Friends of MC have reclaimed it and it now holds an interesting variety of plants. The mire (old clay pit) and high pond support interesting water plants. The woodland is noted for its variety of tree species including some fine specimens.

### **4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Southerham/Wolstonbury, CW/JH**

These two walks on the same day cater for members of differing agility, though both will focus on orchids, amongst a variety of other attractive natural history. Wolstonbury is a difficult site involving a mile to walk, across a busy main road and with steep uneven ground to the Orchid site. In contrast, Southerham is a much easier walk, mostly on level or gently sloping ground. Both sites have a good variety of species in addition to orchids.

For those up for the challenge, at Wolstonbury Hill we will hopefully see two species of Orchid which are rare locally - Greater Butterfly and Fly Orchids. In order to protect the Orchids, we are limiting the numbers on this trip, but there is the option of running the trip twice on the day - at 10am and 2pm, with a maximum of 10 participants per trip. **If you wish to go on the Wolstonbury Hill trip, please email Jim Howell (jimhowell119@hotmail.com).**

### **18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 boat trip**

Arrangements for this trip are being sent out separately.

### **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 Bob Foreman**

This outdoor meeting has two components. Our leader, Bob Foreman, decided it provided an incentive for him to carry out a long-time wish to record some moths in this important nature reserve. So, there will be an evening session on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, just for those particularly interested

in helping to set up moth traps, and the normal morning session, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, for everyone to see the trapped moths, before walking around the site as last year to spot butterflies, plants and anything else of interest.

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Newtimber Hill, Saddlescombe, JH/JH**

This is a high point (204 m) of the South Downs, with a lot of steep and sometimes uneven ground, but with an interesting variety of habitats including Chalk grassland, Chalk heath, ancient woodland including Juniper trees and three surviving dewponds. 30 species of butterflies have been recorded and other insects abound. A room is laid aside for us to make drinks but bring your own food.

**30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Deep Dean, Litlington, MP/RSP**

This is an outing to see the rare Grayling butterfly in Deep Dean, one of its last strongholds in Sussex, organised by the farmer who farms this land. Beforehand there will be a short talk about the Grayling by an expert involved in the Grayling project, followed by a short talk by the farmer on regenerative farming. The group will then travel to and from Deep Dean in a passenger trailer provided. The private track to Deep Dean will be in use by farm vehicles engaged in harvesting so no walking on this track will be possible. We will be able to walk in Deep Dean itself. Park at the Cycle Cadence Café, Litlington nearly opposite the church. What3words: pave.access.entry OS TQ524020.

**13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Moth Event, Mike Vingoe et al.**

As in previous years, moth traps will have been out overnight in Mike Vingoe's garden and possibly others yet to be arranged. The moths will be available to see in Mike's garden from 10 a.m. Other sites and times will be circulated if they are arranged.

**27<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Benfield Hill, Sally Wadsworth**

Benfield Hill is a Local Nature Reserve, the oldest in Brighton and Hove, located just north of the Brighton Bypass (opposite the A293 Portslade turnoff – turn right under the bypass and follow the road round to the right to parking at the side of the road down from the club house. ). There are gentle and more steeply sloping areas facing south and east which support chalk grassland and scrub with a variety of butterflies and flowers. The LNR also supports a large population of glow-worms, but, of course, you will need to visit in the evening to enjoy these.

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Chailey Common (Memorial section), Martin Allison**

This walk will focus on fungi and be led by the none other than the Fungi Recorder for Sussex. Some of the ground may be uneven but the gradients are not steep. The Memorial Common (SW of the A275/A272 junction at North Chailey) offers woodland, stream, heath, grassland and churchyard providing a good variety of fungi. The carpark is close to the junction – turn left here and it is soon on your left next to St Mary's Church.

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Barcombe Mills, Nr Lewes, MP/RSP**

This is an easy level walk of about 2 miles with an optional loop to the Anchor Inn being a further mile (approximately). Details later about whether the pub is open. We will start beside the River Ouse and walk through a local nature reserve on the riverbank looking for water birds including heron and kingfisher. We will return via a disused railway looking for flowers and farmland birds, including yellowhammer. Park in a public car park on the minor road to Barcombe which runs off the A26. What3words: national.dreading.tornado OS TQ434147