

Worthing Natural History Society Spring 2012 Newsletter

It is good to have spring back with us and to be looking forward to the summer programme. This year, as with last, we plan to run a mix of local walks and coach outings. . However, we have been forced to find a new coach company this year as our old company said they were all booked up. We have selected Overland as the best value of the three companies we approached. **The cost of the coach outings, as you will see in the programme, has gone up and it is important that we fill as many of the 30 seats as possible, preferably all of them, so try and encourage your friends and family to come along.** The cost of the coach, including the £20 tip for the driver, is shown on the programme. Please note that for each of the coach outings we have to pay a £50 non-refundable deposit and we lose this if we have to cancel a booking. **If we cancel within 15 days of the trip then we have to pay 25% of the cost.** This we want to avoid. Therefore, a decision will be made on whether to cancel or go ahead **17 days** before the date of the outing. It follows, therefore, that people are required to book before this deadline. We must be sure of at least 25 bookings by this date to justify going ahead. It also follows that people who decide to turn up for the coach on the day without checking with Dorothy or Jean may be disappointed. **To make sure of a seat, book early!** Between the coach trips there will be local walks. These we will reach by car and by bus where there is a suitable service.

The success or failure of this summer programme is, again, very much in your hands and this will affect the programme for 2013. If coach outings are poorly supported and make a loss we will be forced to move to a programme consisting entirely of local walks, which will be a shame for those people who can enjoy a day out without too much walking.

2012 Summer Walks Programme

April 14th Pagham Harbour No coach 10.40am Chris Pennells

Meet up with Chris in the car park by the Visitor Centre at Sidlesham at 10.40am for a birdwatching walk to Church Norton and back. There are toilets in the car park but you will need to bring a drink and a packed lunch. We will get to the reserve either by shared car or by public transport (No.51 bus from Chichester bus station at 10.05am reaches Sidlesham at 10.31am). The tide will be low so there should be plenty of waders feeding.

April 28th Winkworth Arboretum(NT)(£340) Coach 10 am No Leader

A tranquil hillside woodland with sweeping views of Surrey, Winkworth Arboretum has more than 1000 different shrubs and trees and 2 lakes. It offers peace and tranquillity with inspiring landscape and views. There are toilets and there is a tea room catering for light lunches and afternoon teas. For non-members of NT, there is a charge of £5.90. **The decision day for this trip is April 11th.**

May 12th Bracklesham Bay/Earnley Butterfly Centre No coach Jay Cooper

The morning (meet at 10.30am) will be spent at Bracklesham Bay, fossil hunting. Please ring Jay on for transport. She will have bus and train times and will coordinate the arrangements for those wanting a lift to Bracklesham. She will also have details of the accessibility of the beach (there is currently a dispute between geologists, kite surfers and the council over safe beach usage). The afternoon, in contrast, will be spent at Earnley Butterflies & Gardens where there is a cafe and toilets. The cost of entrance is £6.50.

May 26th Findon Circular No coach 10.30am Chris Pennells

We will meet Chris outside the Gun Inn at Findon at 10.30am, either by shared car or by public transport, for a downland walk. The number 1 bus from Worthing at 10.05am gets to Findon by 10.28am

June 9th Sainsbury Circular No coach 10.30am Lawson Powell

We will meet by the Downlands Hotel at 10.30am for a 4 mile circular walk on the Downs at the back of Lyons Farm. There are regular bus services to Sainsburys and there is a good car park there. There will be an initial climb but the good news is that most of the way back is downhill. We return via Lambleys Lane to the Sainsbury car park. Stunning views and downland flowers!

**June 23rd Lullington Heath/Alfriston Coach (£330) 10am Avril Kennard,
Christine Collins & Ann Hunter**

Lullington Heath National Nature reserve is important because it is conserving one of the largest areas of chalk heath remaining in Britain, which forms just under a third of the reserve. Chalk heath occurs where acid soils overlay the alkaline chalk, allowing acid-loving plants to grow amidst the chalk loving flora. Over 250 types of plant have been found on the reserve. We shall be walking the nature trail and a packed lunch is essential. There are no toilets. Non-walkers will be able to spend the day in the delightful village of Alfriston. **The decision day for this trip is June 6th.**

July 7th Claremont Landscape Gardens(NT) Coach(£430) 9.30am No leader

A tranquil 49 acre landscape garden with trees and shrubs, central to which is a serpentine lake which is overlooked by a grass amphitheatre and grotto. Many famous names from garden history, including Capability Brown, have been involved in its creation. There are lovely garden walks and a tea room and shop and toilets. The entrance cost for non-members is £5.60. **Decision day is June 20th.**

July 21st Kingley Vale(GR 825088) No coach,10.30am Margot Hollingdale

No public transport is available to reach the reserve and we shall use shared cars. For those driving there either take the B2178 St Paul's Road/West Stoke Road from Chichester or the A286. 2 miles north of Chichester, turn left in Mid Lavant towards East Ashling for 2 miles and at West Stoke go past the church and, very cautiously, turn right into the car park of Kingley Vale Reserve. Meet at 10.30am. We shall then walk for three quarters of a mile along the track to the reserve and then a further 2 mile walk to the top or a meander on the lower grassy slopes of Kingley Vale itself. No toilets are available and a packed lunch is the order of the day.

Aug 4th Garden Party 2pm

Come along to the Friends Meeting House and bring and share your favourite savouries/ and/or sweets to go with the cups of tea provided by Anne and helpers. There will be good company, music kindly provided by the Sussex Folk Orchestra, a book and plant sale and a raffle, all within the delightful garden at the Friend's Meeting House.

Aug 18th Holmbush Circular No coach 10.40am Hadley Norris & Jill Redman

This is a 5 mile circular downland walk via Oak Farm where refreshments may be available. We will meet at the Holmbush Centre bus stop. Take the 700 bus 9.50am from Worthing Pier to Shoreham High Street, then the 2 or 2a at 10.15am to the Holmbush Centre arriving at 10.30am. Toilets are available at the Centre. The walk starts at 10.40am, bring a picnic.

Sept 1st Frensham Ponds Coach (£400) 9.30am Chris Pennells

The Little Pond is owned and managed by the National Trust. It has some important fen habitats with Yellow Iris, Sweet Flag and Common Reeds and Alder and Willow carr. Marsh Cinquefoil, Bur marigold, water Mint and Angelica can be found here together with many species of damselfly and dragonfly. The pond is also managed partly as a bird sanctuary and supports Reed Bunting, Reed and Sedge Warblers, Snipe and Redshank. The common and the Great Pond are leased to and managed by Waverley Borough Council. The common is one of the largest expanses of heathland in the weald. There are toilets and refreshments at the venue. **Decision day for this outing is August 15th.**

Sept 15th Dial Post Circular No coach 10.45 a.m. Chris Pennells

Meet up with Chris at 10.45am in Dial Post for a circular walk that will include Shipley Mill, sadly no longer available for public visits. For this walk use shared cars.

Sept 29th Whiteways Fungus Foray No coach 10.30am Douglas Twomey

Meet Douglas in the spacious car park at Whiteways, where toilets and refreshments are available, for a gentle peregrination through the woodland seeking for fungi.

Oct 13th Burton Mill Pond(GR 978181) No coach, 10.30am Margot Hollingdale

We shall need to use car share for our visit because the car park is very small. The start of the walk is south of Petworth, east of the A285, at Heath End. The two and a half mile walk round mill pond, marsh and heathland, hopefully, should include some late summer/ early autumnal sightings. There are no facilities on site so a packed lunch is required. The Old Railway House Tea Rooms are less than 1 mile away to the north.

Oct 27th Titchfield Haven Coach (£430) 9.30am No leader

Titchfield Haven is nationally renowned reserve, celebrated as a winter refuge for ducks and waders, and as a summer breeding ground for Avocets. It covers 369 acres of the Lower Meon Valley and contains a variety of wetland habitats. There are hides and a network of paths and boardwalks. The reserve is primarily managed for birds but it also has a number of rare plants. There is a charge of £3 to enter the reserve and tickets are purchased at the visitor centre which has a well-stocked shop and toilets. Hot lunches, teas, cakes etc can be bought in the Haven Tea Room. **Decision day for this outing is October 10th.**

Note

All coach outings start from the Central Station, Worthing, at the times stated on the programme and start on the return journey at 4pm. To go on an outing please notify the Outings Secretary, Mrs. D. O'Neil or Miss Jean Button not less than 17 days (the decision dates are given for each coach outing) beforehand and organise a location where you can meet the coach. **EARLY NOTIFICATION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE IF WE HAVE TO CANCEL THE COACH UP TO 15 DAYS BEFOREHAND WE HAVE A FURTHER COST**

PENALTY. Members cancelling after the 17 days will be required to pay the coach fare. Members and guests attend all of the outdoor events at their own risk. Walkers should wear suitable clothing and footwear and should bring a lunch and a drink. For the local walks we shall reach the venue by car or public transport where this is available. **Those people who are happy and willing to take passengers in their car are asked to notify the Outings Secretary or Jean Button so that they can allocate the non-car drivers a lift to and from the venue. Those wanting a lift must ring Jean or Dorothy.**

Winter Programme

The Winter Programme starts on Saturday 10th November. Your entries for the Photographic Competition should be submitted over the first two meetings and the annual subscription of £12 is due. Please encourage your friends to come along. They will be made most welcome.

Society Officers and Committee

President	Mr. Chris Pennells
Chairman	Miss Jean Button
Hon. Secretary	Dr. Lawson Powell
Treasurer	Mrs. Jenny Clark
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Jay Cooper
Outings Secretary	Mrs Dorothy O'Neil

Committee Douglas Twomey (Vice-Chairman), Margot Hollingdale (Publicity), Avril Kennard (Minutes Secretary), Brod Colbourne (Web Master)