



# Ringwood Natural History Society Programme Summer ~ 2026

26/04/2026



*Scorpion Fly by Gerry Traves*

- Indoor meetings are held at Greyfriars in Ringwood from September until April, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month, at 7.30pm
- We also have an extensive programme of walks.
- Short walks **(SW)** approximately 1 to 3 miles
- Walk **(W)** approximately 3 to 4 miles
- Long walks **(LW)** approximately 4 to 6 miles
- Field study walks **(FS)** approximately 0 to 1 mile
- Social gatherings **(G)** approximately 0 to 1 mile plus picnic
- Unless otherwise stated well-behaved dogs **on a lead at all times** are welcome with owners that adhere to the New Forest code and land owner requirements relating to dogs.
- Dogs must be covered by their owners own Third Party Liability Insurance
- In the event of adverse weather, **please check with the walk leader**
- Keep green, so please arrange to car share where possible
- Those not walking can often meet the walkers for a picnic or a pub lunch
- A black & white printable booklet version can be found on our web site [ringwoodnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://ringwoodnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk) at [Extras](#)

It's inevitable some changes will occur from the printed copy, where possible the programme on our website will be updated regularly with any changes, please check before leaving home at [ringwoodnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://ringwoodnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk)

### New Forest Car parking charges

We are used to parking for free on many of our walks in the New Forest but this has changed. Forestry England, who manage 129 car parks in the New Forest, now charge for parking. To pay in all Forestry England car parks use the RingGo app. You can pay via the app after you have left the car park up to midnight on the following day. If you forget the car park number you can check it as well as details of this change, at <http://www.forestryengland.uk/car-parks/parking-in-the-new-forest>

Prices are:

- £1.50 for one hour,
- £3 for 2 hours
- £5 for four hours,
- £8 for over 4 hours

Tickets are transferable, so if you have time left, you can use it in another Forestry England car park. You can register up to 2 cars on the RingGo app. Alternatively, become a member of Forestry England, starting from £96/yr to get free parking in any of their car parks in England.

Parking in the heart of the New Forest is only permitted in official Forestry England car parks and not on verges, in car park gateways, or in front of access points and barriers. This is to prevent damage and erosion to the Forest.

### Change to our programme.

To make scheduling walks during May and June easier, our future programmes will run for 6 months each. The Winter programme will cover November to April inclusive. The summer programme will run from May through to October. There will be the usual overlap of one month at the start of each fresh programme.

### May 2026

**Thu 7th (SW) Pig Bush** with Theresa. Meet at Pig Bush car park at **10.30am**. (map ref: SU 362 050, [///friend.leader.swept](#)). This will be a 3 mile walk of varied habitats such as heathland and woodland which are good areas for birds.

**Bring lunch.**

### Walk Leader Telephone Numbers:

Jean Crawford	07742 357 891	Christine Storey	07753 324 465
Andy Enefer	07889 049 775	Bill Syratt	Home 01425 658 085
Theresa Holden	07811 781 760	Judy Thomas	07387 202302
Pat Holder	07712 334 526	Gerry Traves	07980 881 996
Martin King	07714 338 705	Lyn Traves	07906 570 360
Mike & Liz Read	Home 01425 475 008	Audrey Walker	07798 502 011
Maz Russell	07437 413 612	Pete Wellstead	07941 613 334
Will Russell	07437 982 219	Sonia Wilkinson	07714 882 732
Andy Skarstein	07548 896 132	Sue Skarstein	07754 894 127

**Chairman:** Theresa Holden. Tel: 07811 781 760, email: [theresa.holden.rnhs@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.holden.rnhs@gmail.com)

**Vice chairman:** Pat Holder. Tel: 07712 334 526

**Membership secretary:** Martin King. Tel: 07714 338 705

**Secretary:** John Gurney. Tel: 01425 471 362 / 07395 855 404, email: [johngurney774@gmail.com](mailto:johngurney774@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Richard Briggs. Tel: 07919 423 581, email: [rabriggs1@me.com](mailto:rabriggs1@me.com)

**Social secretary:** Adrian Rose. email: [hodderam@aol.com](mailto:hodderam@aol.com)

**Walks Organisers:** Christine Storey & Pat Holder. email: [rhnswalks@gmail.com](mailto:rhnswalks@gmail.com)

**Speakers organised by:** **Position Vacant**, email:

**September**  
(cont'd)

**W/beg 28<sup>th</sup>** A walk with Theresa. Details to follow.

**October**

**Thur 8<sup>th</sup>** *Evening Meeting at Greyfriars. Mike Read. Title to be determined at a later date*

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup>** **(FS) Eyeworth** with Bill. A fungus foray this year at Eyeworth. Meet at Eyeworth Pond CP (map ref: SU 229 146, ///tangling.host.rails) at **11:00am** for a short walk through Eyeworth Wood and around the pond.

**Bring Lunch & chair.**

**Thu 15<sup>th</sup>** **(W) Keyhaven Marshes** with Liz & Mike. A walk of approximately 3 miles looking for coastal birds. Meet at Keyhaven Car Park at **10.30am** (map ref. SZ 306 915, ///snug.revise.reefs). Parking charges apply.

**Bring lunch.**

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup>** **(SW) Blashford Lakes** with Christine starting from Tern Hide car park (map OL22, ref: SU 152 084, ///recall.honest.treaty) at **10:30am**. General wildlife and stroll.

**Bring Lunch. No Dogs.**

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup>** *Evening Meeting at Greyfriars. Members own. This is your chance to share your photos with the rest of the members NB. Anyone with contributions, could they please let Martin have them at least 2 meetings prior to the members own evening*

**Thu 29<sup>th</sup>** **(LW) RSPB Arne** with Pete. Meet at the RSPB CP (map OL15, ref: SY 972 878) at **10:30am**, for a heath, woodland and waterside walk catering for all interests with the opportunity of afternoon tea at the walk end. Car park charges apply for non-members.

**Bring Lunch.**

**Please note**, along with our seasonal programme, our weekly walk notes / species lists are available to view on our web site at [ringwoodnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://ringwoodnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk).

Within the New Forest. In an emergency key code will be needed to open the security gates & barriers for the emergency services. Call the Forestry Keepers on 03000 674 420 for the codes. **It is essential** all walk leaders carry this number when leading a walk in the New Forest.

**May**  
(cont'd)

**Wed 13th(W) Kingston Lacy** with Pat and Christine. Meet at 10.30am in the car park just west of Kingston Lacy vegetable garden (map ref: ST 9777 0069, ///picturing.rainfall.missions) for a walk of around 3.5 miles.

**Bring lunch and chair.**

**Tue 19th (SW) Throop** with Judy, Christine and Sonia. Meet at 10.30am in Throop Car Park (map ref: SZ 112 957, ///soccer.mild.vibes) for a 3 mile walk, including Riverside on level ground with no styles.

**Bring lunch.**

**Thu 28th (W) Worth Matravers** with Pete. Meet at Worth Matravers CP (map ref: SY 974 776, ///ocean.lawful.weeps) at **10:30am** for a 3-mile circular walk from Worth Matravers to Winspit, along the coastal path to Seacombe Cliff and back to Worth Matravers. (There are some steep climbs)

**Bring lunch.**

**June**

**Wed 3rd (SW) Blissford Farm** with Jean. Park at Abbot's Well CP (map OL22, ref: SU 178 129, ///clues.valued.evolved) at **10:30am**. We will visit Ann Sevier's fields; a sanctuary of wildflowers and will take a short walk around the surrounding forest area.

**Bring lunch.**

**Fri 12th (W) Ibsley Common** with Martin. Meet at Moyles Court (Map OL22, ref: SU 162 084, ///sweep.irritable.standing) at **10:30am** for a walk over Ibsley Common to seek out greater broomrape.

**Bring lunch.**

**Tue 16th (W) Wild Woodbury** with Lyn & Gerry. We will explore this recent addition to the Dorset Wildlife Nature reserves. Meet at the reserve CP (post code BH20 7LH, map ref: SY 849 946, ///snatched.cries.twitching) at **10:30am**. The entrance to the reserve is the lane opposite Elder Road, sign posted Court Farm.

**Bring Lunch.**

**Wed 24th(W) Castle Hill, Salisbury.** Enjoy a morning walk with Judy and Christine followed by a picnic lunch. Then after lunch take a pleasant walk on the Old Sarum site, enjoying extensive views over the surrounding scenery. Meet at **11.00am** parking in the Old Sarum car park (map ref: SU139 326: ///pump.seeing.standing)

**Bring lunch.**

## July

**Thu 2nd (SW) Studland Common, Milford on Sea** with Theresa for an easy walk of less than 3 miles. Meet at Hordle Cliff (West) car park at Milford. (Map ref SZ 276 918, [///method.shunning.drew](#)) at **10.30am**. (Charges apply). At this time of the year this small Nature reserve is generally good for butterflies and flowers.

**Bring Lunch.**

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Forde Inn, Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge, SP6 1NQ.** Meet with Bill at **7.30pm**, aiming to be back at the Inn for a drink at 9.00pm ish. There is plenty of parking at the Inn and Bill has confirmed we can park there.

**Tue 14th (W) Fontmell Down** with Mike and Liz. Meet at **11am** at the car park car park (map ref ST886 187, [///elevates.venue.pythons](#)) for two short walks on downland reserves to look for birds, butterflies and flowers. We will eat between the two walks. Afternoon tea at the 'Lore of the Sky' café at Compton Abbas Airfield. Gentle slopes on both walks but if you go chasing butterflies or flowers there could be steep walks back to the car!

**Bring lunch and chair.**

**Thu 23rd Whitsbury Gallops** at **10.30am** with Jean. Morning only. Drive right through Whitsbury without turning off left or right and you will come to the Gallops where you can park ([///homeward.iron.audit](#)).

**Thu 30th Ringwood.** An afternoon tea at Maz and Will's, Ackworth BH24 1TY, from **2pm**. Limited numbers. **Phone Maz to book** 01425 489495

## August

**Tue 4th (W & G) Walk at Badbury Rings** with Lyn & Gerry. Meet at Badbury Rings Car Park (map ref: ST 960.031, [///bagpipes.squares.liquids](#)) at **10.30am** (parking charges apply to non-NT members) for a walk around the Rings, The Oaks and High Wood.

**Bring lunch & chair.**

**Thu 13th (SW) North Poulner Lakes. 10.30am** with Christine. Meet at the far end of the car park at North Poulner Lakes (map ref: SU 157 067, [///gazed.dance.litigate](#)) for a stroll. Bring your own picnic lunch to have at Sonia's.

**Bring lunch and chair.**

## August

(cont'd)

**Mon 17th (SW) Vereley** with Sue and Andy. Meet at **10am** for a 2-3 mile general walk at Vereley. We'll have a picnic back at the car park about 1pm at the latest. Parking at Vereley, eastern side of the road (SU1958 0511, [what3words:///initial.instructs.spokes](#)). If the car park is full then Vereley Hill on the other side of the road is usually open.

**Bring lunch and chair.**

**Wed 26th (W) Ogdens and Latchmore Brook** with Pat and Christine. A general wildlife walk of around 3.5 miles. Meet at **10.30am** at Abbots Well car park (map OL22, ref: SU 178 129, [///clues.valued.evolving](#))

**Bring lunch.**

## September

**Thu 3rd (W) Stoborough Heath** with Lyn & Gerry. Meet at Stoborough Heath CP on Arne Road. (map OL15, ref: SY 938 863, [///sofa.evaded.spouse](#)) at **10.30 am** for a walk over heathland rich in wildflowers including the Autumn Gentian.

**Bring lunch.**

**Wed 9<sup>th</sup> (SW) Wilverley** with Liz and Mike. Meet at the Wilverley car park at **10.00am** (map ref SU253.010, [///frogs.backswing.stupidly](#)) for a walk of about 2.7 miles through the inclosure then on to open heathland and finally the grassy Wilverley Plain for birds and flowers. We will return to the car park for lunch. This walk contains a gentle slope typical of the New Forest.

**Bring lunch and chair.**

**Thur 10<sup>th</sup> Evening Meeting at Greyfriars.** Mark Barrett "Extraordinary facts about ordinary birds". Mark is from the South Wiltshire RSPB and this will be his first visit to Nats

**Thu 17<sup>th</sup> (W) Boldre** with Will and Maz. Start at **11am** for an approximately 4 mile walk on mostly good paths with few gradients. Park at St John's church car park Boldre SO41 5PG, (map ref: SZ 324 993, [///awoke.bravo.zaps](#)).

**Bring lunch.**

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> (W) Durlston** with Pete W. Meet at Durlston CP BH19 2JL (map ref: SZ031.772) at **10:30am** for a 3-mile woodland and coastal walk (including some steep climbs) observing sea birds & butterflies. Parking charges apply.

**Bring lunch.**

**Thu 24<sup>th</sup> Evening Meeting at Greyfriars.** Peter Allen "Pollinators and Pollination". Former member Peter returns with a brand new talk