

## Indoor Meetings 2022-23

**In person:** meetings take place on Wednesdays, starting at 8 pm, in Room 109 in the Palmer Building, Reading University, which is accessible.

**Online:** all the meetings will also be livestreamed via Zoom. Please check our website at <http://berksoc.org.uk/club-news/programme/> for up-to-date information about each meeting, including the Zoom link. We will also email members before each meeting.

October 5 <sup>th</sup> 2022	<b>Idle Days in Patagonia – Conor Jameson</b> The fascinating story of W H Hudson, an author and naturalist who was very influential in the founding of the RSPB. Conor will link his life and legacy to today, comparing then and now in a costume drama with plenty of birds!
October 19 <sup>th</sup> 2022	<b>Waders on the Move – Graham Appleton</b> Where do our waders come from and why are we seeing so many changes to their numbers? Disappearing Redshanks, an aging Curlew population producing too few chicks, disturbed Turnstones and a booming Black-tailed Godwit population.
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2022	<b>The Bermuda Petrel – Andrew Cleave</b> Back from the brink. After Bermuda was colonised by humans, the population of this bird plummeted. Due to some remarkable conservation work, the numbers have now slowly built up and the future does not look so bleak.
November 16 <sup>th</sup> 2022	<b>AGM &amp; Farmland Birds on the Berkshire Downs – Neil Bucknell</b> The Club's Annual General Meeting will be followed by Neil's talk about the results of some of the surveys that have been carried out in recent years, and some of the opportunities and threats to downland birds.
November 30 <sup>th</sup> 2022	<b>A Sub-Antarctic Experience – Neil Gartshore</b> Neil will relive his experience as a field researcher collecting data of the 'predatory' birds found in the Prince Edward Islands – the two species of Giant Petrels and the Sub-Antarctic Skua.
December 14 <sup>th</sup> 2022	<b>Christmas Social</b> Our annual special event. There will be the usual festive treats and other delights to entertain you. Neil Bucknell will give a short talk on farm surveys and there may be a quiz or two for fun.
January 4 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<b>Lundy and its House Sparrows – Julia Schroeder</b> Julia will present her research on the evolutionary behaviour of House Sparrows on Lundy Island: mate choice, their personality and social networks.

January 18 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<b>The Conservation Value of Ringing – Rob Robinson</b> Drawing on the latest research from the BTO and others, Rob will tell us how ringing is still vital in understanding why and how bird populations change and hence in formulating effective conservation action.
February 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023	<b>Monitoring Rare Breeding Birds – Dr Mark Eaton</b> The Rare Breeding Birds Panel was established in 1972 to collate data of the status of the country's rarest breeding birds. Mark will share some of its most recent findings and show how birders can help its work.
February 15 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<b>Endangered Birds in Mauritius: how has two decades of science helped? – Ken Norris</b> Our annual University lecture. How does biodiversity respond to environmental change? How does it affect ecosystem services and the values and benefits people derive from them?
March 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023	<b>Woodland Birds, Science &amp; Conservation – Paul Bellamy</b> This talk will look at the work being done to understand and reduce the pressures affecting woodlands and woodland birds, and projects trying to identify conservation action for some of the priority species - Hawfinch, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Willow Tit.
March 15 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<b>Photographic Competition 2023</b> Our annual competition for both experienced and budding photographers. Three categories: Flight/Action, Portrait and Birds in Berkshire.
March 29 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<b>The Birds and Wildlife of Sri Lanka – Jonathan Forgham</b> A look at Sri Lanka, concentrating on the birds found in the national parks as well as those you can see by just walking the village lanes, plus a look at the mammals and insects.

## Outdoor Programme 2022-23

Everyone is welcome, but please give leaders at least three days' notice if you wish to attend, including whether anyone under 18 will be present.

**Accessibility:** Please contact the relevant leader for information about accessibility on outdoor events.

<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2022</b> <b>Evening Bat Walk at Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve</b> Join an experienced bat watcher and conservationist for an introduction to the bats of this surprisingly diverse area. This is a small lake and woodland area, with easy paths. <b>Meet at 19:30 at the duck feeding platform on Maiden Erlegh lake, SU75014 71018 or //passes.dance.axed.</b> Parking on Instow Road (RG6 5QH) or Lakeside Road (RG6 7PH). <b>Contact Elaine Charlson: <a href="mailto:elainemcharlson@gmail.com">elainemcharlson@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2022</b> <b>Day Trip by Car to Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes</b> This area offers a mix of marsh, meadow, gorse scrub and sea. It can produce a huge list, ranging from raptors to Dartford warblers, from divers to sandpipers. <b>Meet 09:30 in Keyhaven at the limited parking area at //handbag.nearing.shepherdess or SZ3081 9158;</b> there are other car parks and a toilet nearby. Note all parking in the vicinity is now pay and display. <b>Contact Gray Burfoot: 07766 679362</b>
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022</b> <b>NDOC/BOC Trip to Stanpit Marsh &amp; Hengistbury Head</b> The marsh here is fronted by Christchurch Harbour and is a winter home to many species of wader and wildfowl, with assorted passerines found in the marginal scrub and woodland. <b>Meet at 09:45 at Stanpit Marsh car park, Stanpit Rd, SZ172 924, BH23 3ND or //chemistry.folds.tricks.</b> <b>Contact Bob Lyle: <a href="mailto:lylesatbyles@greenbee.net">lylesatbyles@greenbee.net</a></b>
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022</b> <b>NDOC/BOC Trip to Warsash</b> Migrants may drop into hedges, fields and marshes, waders will be in the estuary, pools and beaches, and sea-birds may be offshore in the Solent. <b>Meet at 9:30am in Warsash at the Passage Lane public car park (with toilets). SU489062 or SO31 9FW. Contact Bob Lyle: <a href="mailto:lylesatbyles@greenbee.net">lylesatbyles@greenbee.net</a></b>
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2022</b> <b>Midweek Walk on the Berkshire Downs</b> The walk will take in a stretch of the Ridgeway and its surrounds. At this time of year we may expect flocks of winter thrushes, finches and bunting. If we are lucky, the odd owl, shrike or raptor may show. <b>Meet at 10:00 at the Bury Down car park near West Ilsley off the A34, SU478841 or //typhoon.unroll.enough. Contact Robert Godden: 07543 800921 or <a href="mailto:godden_robert@yahoo.com">godden_robert@yahoo.com</a></b>
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2022</b> <b>NDOC/BOC Trip to Pennington Marshes</b> Another opportunity to visit this bird-rich location. See above. <b>Meet at 09:45 at parking area at end of Pennington Lane, SZ318927 or //factored.proves.drew.</b> <b>Contact Bob Lyle: <a href="mailto:lylesatbyles@greenbee.net">lylesatbyles@greenbee.net</a></b>
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2022</b> <b>Weekend Trip to Essex</b> Essex has many flooded estuaries: the Stour, Colne, Blackwater, Roach and Thames. We plan to visit some of these areas and sites just inland of the coast looking for seabirds, wildfowl, waders, raptors and owls. Numbers are strictly limited to 12, so book early. <b>Contact Bob Lyle: <a href="mailto:lylesatbyles@greenbee.net">lylesatbyles@greenbee.net</a></b>

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022**

**NDOC/BOC Trip to Farlington Marsh & Hayling Island**

An area of grazing marsh in Langstone Harbour with large wader and wildfowl flocks and winter raptors.

**Meet at 09:30 at Farlington Marshes CP, SU677043 or [///pillow.income.suffice](http://pillow.income.suffice).** Sharp left at narrow entrance off SE side of the large A27/A2030 roundabout.

**Contact Bob Lyle: [lylesatbyles@greenbee.net](mailto:lylesatbyles@greenbee.net)**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**

**Day Trip by Car to Pagham Harbour**

Enjoy superb birding around Pagham Harbour, where waders, raptors and wildfowl are usually plentiful, with a chance of grebes and divers on the sea.

**Meet 09:30 at Pagham Harbour Visitor Centre, Sidlesham, [///overlaid.jacuzzi.aimed](http://overlaid.jacuzzi.aimed), SZ856965 or approx PO20 7NE.**

**Contact Gray Burfoot: 07766 679362**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**

**Midweek Walk at Moor Green Lakes**

This site usually abounds with wildfowl and other water birds, but winter finches, raptors and others may also be seen. It is a good place to start a year list. **Meet at 10:00 at the car park off**

**Lower Sandhurst Road, SU805 627, RG40 3TJ or [///gathering.remarking.levels](http://gathering.remarking.levels).** Contact Robert Godden: 07543 800921 or [godden\\_robert@yahoo.com](mailto:godden_robert@yahoo.com)

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**

**Midweek Walk at the Jubilee River**

This site, and the adjacent pools of Dorney Common, can produce large numbers of wildfowl and other water birds in winter.

**Meet at 10:00 at the car park (immediately left after bridge when driving south). SU928795, SL4 6QT or [///achieving.bother.basin](http://achieving.bother.basin).**

**Contact David Fuller: [mail@david-fuller.com](mailto:mail@david-fuller.com)**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**

**Weekend Day Trip by car to Kent**

We will visit one or more of the superb birding sites in this diverse county. Details will be decided closer to the date according to what offers the best day's birding.

**Contact Robert Godden: 07543 800921 or [godden\\_robert@yahoo.com](mailto:godden_robert@yahoo.com)**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023**

**Day Trip by Car to London Wetland Centre, Barnes**

There's always plenty to see at the London Wetland Centre. In March, there will still be plenty of wildfowl with a chance of some less common species such as Bittern, Water Pipit and Jack Snipe, and maybe some early returning summer visitors. There is an entry charge. Note that the LWC is within the ULEZ charging zone (£12.50) so car sharing, low emissions vehicles or public transport are recommended.

**Meet at 10:00 in the reception at the London Wetland Centre, Queen Elizabeth Walk, Barnes, London SW13 9WT.**

**Contact Colin Wilson: 07899 066687 or [wilson.blakeney@gmail.com](mailto:wilson.blakeney@gmail.com)**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**

**Midweek Walk at Tice's Meadow**

A newly-created reserve between Farnham and Aldershot that boasts a variety of habitats including open water, gravel islands and scrapes, reedbeds, scrub, woodland, ephemeral ponds, and wet and dry grassland which turns up interesting birds at any time of year. **Meet at 10:00 Park on roadside at SU867489, GU9 9NB or [///task.zooms.lame](http://task.zooms.lame).** Contact Colin Wilson: 07899 066687 or [wilson.blakeney@gmail.com](mailto:wilson.blakeney@gmail.com)

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**

**Midweek Walk at Little Marlow Gravel Pit**

Cormorants and herons breed here in good numbers and we can expect some early summer migrants around the lake and in the surrounding trees. Anything could turn up, as an Iceland Gull did on last year's visit!

**Meet at 10:00 in the car park up lane past church, SU875876, SL7 3RY or [///sundial.kickbacks.youthful](http://sundial.kickbacks.youthful).** Contact Ray Reedman: 0118 9864338 or [meander2@hotmail.com](mailto:meander2@hotmail.com)

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**

**Early Morning Birdsong Walk at Dinton Pastures**

It is an exciting time of year, with up to nine warbler species, Common Tern, Cuckoo and Hobby all possible among others.

**Meet at 07:30 at Dinton Discovery Centre car park, SU786725, RG10 0SU or [///dragon.dash.spicy](http://dragon.dash.spicy).** (Parking charge £1.50/hr). Contact Brian Bennett: [btbennett1@googlemail.com](mailto:btbennett1@googlemail.com)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2023**

**Weekend Trip to Kent**

With its proximity to the continent and having a wide variety of habitats, Kent is an excellent birding destination at this time of year. We may be able to make diversions for other wildlife such as orchids. **Contact Robert Godden: 07543 800921 or [godden\\_robert@yahoo.com](mailto:godden_robert@yahoo.com)**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**

**Evening Walk at Church Plantation**

A leisurely walk to see a variety of woodland species, with a good chance of Nightjars and Woodcocks as it starts to get dark. Insect repellent strongly advised!

**Meet at 20:40. Park near gate on east side of Ufton Lane, just before the turn into the west end of Green Lane at SU632667 or [///winter.ecologist.spring](http://winter.ecologist.spring).** Car share if possible. **Contact Peter Driver: 07585 112301**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**

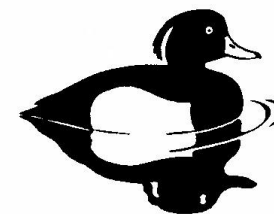
**Evening Walk on the Aldworth Downs**

On a summer evening, this area of the Downs can reveal an assortment of buntings, finches and warblers, as well as partridges, raptors and a variety of other wildlife. Be prepared for a good walk.

**Meet at 19:00 at the north end of Churn Road, (which can be a bit rough at times) off High Street, Compton, at SU507820 or [///majoring.boil.stumpy](http://majoring.boil.stumpy).** Contact Andy Tomczynski: [andy.tomczynski@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.tomczynski@btinternet.com)

## BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

2022-23



### OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Presidents Emeritus:  
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Robert Godden and Sally Wearing

Committee:  
Sue Charnley, Chris Foster, Bob Lyle, Andy Tomczynski,  
Marek Walford and Sally Wearing

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