

# Mid Herts local group

Events programme: April to October 2011

Herts and  
Middlesex



The venue for all evening events is Howlands Baptist Church, The Commons, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 4RS adjacent to Commonswood School. Donations: £2 at indoor (including coffee) and outdoor meetings unless otherwise stated. For more info contact: Jan Mitchell 01438 717428/ family@mitchell27.freereserve.co.uk or Dave Laming 01438 798213/drlaming@gmail.com

Apr

**Sunday 10th Learn how to read animal tracks and signs** with wildlife expert Keith Seaman.

Meet 10.00am Kelshall village hall, Village Green Kelshall, North Herts SG8 9SE. Map reference: TL329364. Follow signs for Kelshall off A505 Baldock –Royston road. £4 charge - pay on the day.

**Tuesday 26th Woodland walk** Visit Bramfield woods near Tewin for a 3-4 mile guided walk. Look for red kite and buzzards! Meet 6.30pm. Car park opposite Grandison Arms, (optional pub meal/drink afterwards) Bury Lane, Bramfield.SG14 2QL. Map ref: TL 289157

May

**Sunday 15th Fossil hunt at Walton on the Naze** with Dr Chris Woolston. Coach leaves 8.30am outside John Lewis in Welwyn Garden City. Return by 6pm. Cost £15. (One child under 16 free accompanied by a paying adult). Book with Chris on 07983 881182 by 5 May. Please note that all participants must take full responsibility for their own safety. Hard hats and high visibility clothing are required – some hard hats are available to loan, ask Chris when you book.

**Tuesday 17th An evening walk in ancient woods** Visit the ancient woods of Digswell. Local naturalist Tom Gladwin will guide you on a 3 to 4 mile stroll. Meet 6.30pm outside 99, Warren Way, off Station Road, Digswell AL6 0DL (5 mins walk from Welwyn North station).

Jun

**Sunday 12th See common blues** Join Michael Pearson at Bunkers Hill in Hemel Hempstead to hear about the revival of the common blue butterflies in the area and hopefully spot a few! From M1 J8 at first roundabout take first exit, follow A4147 to Leverstock Green. After 200m take right fork – Bedmond Rd – and leave village. After speed limit sign, turn right. Under steel arch, follow rough track 300m to car park. **Start time: 2pm.** Map ref: TL086060.

**Tuesday 28th Panshanger walk** Take a 2 to 3 mile evening stroll round this special haven for wildlife with HMWT Conservation Manager Tim Hill. Meet at 6.30pm in the car park at the estate offices. Take the Welwyn to Hertford road entrance, at the white gatehouse, on the B1000, approx 400m east from the Tewin/ Bramfield turn. Map ref: TL 293136.

Jul

**Sunday 10th Watch out for water voles** Come with us to Purwell Ninesprings Nature Reserve to search for dragonflies and water voles. Then enjoy lunch (optional) at the Lavender farm café, where you can pick your own lavender for a small charge. Meet 10am. Enter from Gypsy Lane bridleway which joins the junction between Kingswood Avenue and Purwell Lane at north end, and Wymondley Road at south end. Parking area at the Kingswood Avenue end. Map ref: TL 208295.

**Tuesday 26th A look round Lemsford Springs** Explore this hidden gem of a reserve with warden Barry Trevis from 7pm, followed by Mid Herts local group AGM. Lemsford, Welwyn Garden City AL8 7TN Map ref: TL223123. 1.5 miles W of WGC town centre, off roundabout leading to Lemsford village on B197, W of A1(M).

Sep

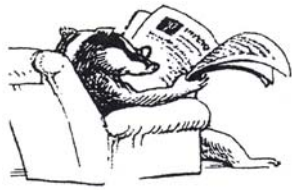
**Saturday 10th Bat walk** Learn all about bats with Roger Harvard at Stanborough Lakes, WGC. Meet 7pm north car park off Stanborough Rd AL8 6DQ. Bat detectors will be provided. Book by 1<sup>st</sup> September. Phone Vicky on 01707 390064. £5 per person (£2.50 under 16yrs) Max group 30.

**Tuesday 27th Rural, Wildlife & Environmental Crimes Coordinator Sgt Jamie Bartlett from Herts Constabulary** will talk about his work. Meet 8pm Howlands Baptist Church, The Commons.

Oct

**Sunday 16th Fungal walk on Mardley Heath** with expert Kerry Robinson. Meet 10am in the car park on Heath Road. Take the B197 under the A1(M) in Welwyn towards Knebworth. In half a mile, by shops, turn left into Heath Road. C/pk on left just over half a mile. Walk approx 2 miles. Location: TL248184. Book with Vicky on 01707 390064 by 1<sup>st</sup> October. Max (30)

**Tuesday 25th From Otters to Orang-Utans to Hedgehogs and Hyenas** –the work of the People's Trust for Endangered Species with Emily Jones, Outreach Officer. Meet 8pm Howlands Baptist Church, The Commons. WGC



## Newsletter: Spring 2011

As you can see, we have changed our name to Mid Herts Local Group to encourage people from a wider area to support our events. Our talks have covered a variety of subjects including phenology (the recording of nature's seasonal events), animal tracks and signs and bird life in Egypt. All have been very well attended.

Our first walk in September was to Fir and Ponds Wood, part of the old Enfield Chase and a good example of ancient coppicing and pollarding. We saw the largest holly tree in Herts and fungi such as chicken in the woods and sulphur tuft. Fungi was very abundant on our walk with Kerry Robinson in October when we saw 80 to 100 species, the best for 10 years.



Hatfield House estate is famous for veteran trees and on our walk in November we saw many examples over 500 years old. One, the elephant tree, could be 1,000 years old.

In December, the freezing conditions did not deter six hardy souls who attended our post Christmas walk at Fishers Green. They were rewarded with splendid views of the bittern as well as gooseander, little grebe, gadwall and water rail.



In January we helped contribute to England's newest planted forest, Heartwood near Sandridge (above) where we were expertly tutored by Neale and then planted hornbeam, oak and silver birch.

We hope you enjoy our spring programme and look forward to seeing you, particularly on our coach trip in May to Walton on the Naze.