

## **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (Malvern Group) 2017 Minibus Visits**

**plus information on the planned walks.**

### **(Walk) Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 10am: New Worcestershire Wildlife Trust land by the Knapp Reserve**

A morning walk with Brian Iles around the recently acquired land adjoining, and near to, the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Knapp and Papermill reserve.

Meet at the Knapp car park (SO 751522).

### **(Walk) March: Hawfinches in Ledbury**

A 2 to 3 hour guided walk with Mike Pullen, a member of the Malvern Bird Group, to see the elusive hawfinches. We await their return to Ledbury after which the date will be advertised on the website and sent to all those who have given us their email address. Booking will be required as numbers will be limited to 10, but a repeat walk could be arranged if interest is high.

### **(Walk) Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 10am: Breeding Pied Flycatchers**

A morning guided walk with Simon Roberts from the Malvern Hills Conservators to hear about, and hopefully see, the breeding pied flycatchers on the Malvern Hills.

Meet at Hollybush car park on the southern side of Midsummer Hill (SO 758368).

### **Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire: a wealth of wildlife including nightjar and roding woodcock Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June Cost £13 Depart from Splash at 9.15am (return late evening) Limit 16**

The ancient Forest of Dean has a rich heritage and we shall visit a number of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust reserves:

- Lancaut, which is one of the few sites in the British Isles where natural transitions from saltmarsh to valley woodland occur and is a SSSI site. In the morning we shall have a guided walk with the GWT warden ("not a reserve to be missed", he says!). It comprises cliffs, mixed woodland and saltmarsh, so there are some steep paths. A wealth of wild flowers and birds are also found in the reserve.
- Time permitting, we plan to visit The Park and Poor's Allotment nature reserves in the afternoon. Both sites are excellent examples of acid grassland and heathland which, over the years, have allowed a wide range of fascinating wildlife to flourish.

We shall have an early evening meal (menu choices will have been pre-booked), at The Rising Sun, Parkend (not included in the cost) followed by:

- a visit to Woorgreens, a noted reserve for dragonflies and nightjars. Alan Baxter, a keen birder, will be with us. We also hope to hear wood warbler, see roding woodcock and the famous wild boars.  
Please wear long sleeves in the evening and bring insect repellent.

**PLEASE TURN OVER FOR DETAILS OF OTHER TRIPS & WALKS**



**You should retain the top part** as your record of bookings and as a reminder of trip dates and information. For more information phone Margaret Vernon on 01684 565079.

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#### **IMPORTANT – PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM and send it to:**

Margaret Vernon, 1 Cambridge Close, Upper Welland, Malvern, WR14 4JZ with a cheque made payable to WWT (Malvern group). Include a SAE if receipt required.

<b>Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (Malvern Group): 2017 Day Trips Booking Form</b>				
<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>Price /person</b>	<b>Number booking</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Forest of Dean	£13 (not incl eve meal)		£
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Brean Down and Sand Point	£18 (incl NT guide)		£
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> August	Imber Village	£15		£
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£</b>

**Brean Down and Sand Point, Somerset****Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July Cost: £18 (incl £5 for guide)****Depart from Splash: 8am (return mid evening)****Limit 16**

Both Brean Down and Sand Point belong to the National Trust and sit high above sea level, so a certain degree of fitness and ability to climb steps is required.

Brean Down is one of the landmarks of the Somerset coastline and belongs to the great chain of Mendip Hills, being made up of carboniferous limestone rock. It is an impressive natural pier with dramatic cliffs and an accessible Victorian fort, being classed both as a SSSI for its exceptional natural history and as a Scheduled Ancient Monument for its archaeological remains. The rich coastal limestone grasslands are home to many plants, some rare, that will be in flower and many butterflies should be seen at the time of our visit, including brown argus, chalkhill blue, small pearl bordered and dark green fritillary. We shall have a guided walk by one of the NT's volunteer coordinators. There is a cafe and shop at the base of the down.

Sand Point, just north of Weston-super-Mare, is also made of limestone, with unusual volcanic intrusions that reach out into the Bristol Channel. The rich flora and fauna will continue and there is an option to wander along the sea front footpath amongst the dunes or climb up to the Point (or do both!). Tea shops nearby.

**(Walk) Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 11am – 2pm: Butterflies of the Malvern Hills**

A 3-hour, approx 2.5 mile walk following good paths on the eastern slopes of North Hill (459ft/130m) with Mel Mason, WMBC Malvern representative and MBG recorder. Grayling will be our focus, but we will also expect to see several other species such as skippers (small, Essex and large), brown argus, brimstone, painted lady, marbled white, small copper, common blue, small heath and gatekeeper.

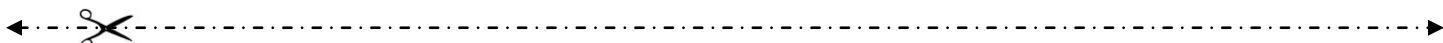
Bring a packed lunch, plenty of water, sun-hat and walking boots – sandals NOT advised.

Meet at North Hill Car Park (SO 771468): fee £4.00 if you do not have a MHC residents' parking permit.

**Imber Village, Salisbury Plain****Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August Cost: £15 Depart from Splash: 7.30am (return mid evening) Limit 16**

Imber is an uninhabited village, requisitioned by the MOD in 1943 and now part of the Army's training grounds on Salisbury Plain. The village is rarely accessible to the public, but we have the opportunity to visit the large site that includes a purpose-built set of houses for Army training plus St Giles church which will be open when we go. Drinks and biscuits are available here (plus toilet) and on display will be a lot of archive (and very interesting) material from the earlier village. There are roads that can be walked and the surrounding chalk grasslands are host to a multitude of flora – too numerous and colourful even to begin to describe! Other wildlife including butterflies, birds and mammals should be seen as well as the odd burnt out tank!

We plan to travel via Avebury, (hopefully with good views of the standing stones as we pass) and also to stop and visit the Caen Hill Locks – the famous flight of 29 locks on the Kennet and Avon canal in Devizes where you can see the longest continuous flight of locks in the country with their attendant wildlife. A café is alongside the canal.

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM**

<b>Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (Malvern Group): 2017 Day Trips Booking Form</b>	
<b>Name and Address</b> (Please Print)	<b>Phone</b> (essential, preferably landline)
	<b>email address</b>

