

Barnstaple and District DWT Local Group

Programme from Sept 2019 to April 2020

- ❖ Talks on North Devon's conservation and heritage, and wildlife related subjects further afield.
- ❖ **All our indoor "talks" meetings are in the Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple**
- ❖ The meeting room is on the ground floor. There is wheelchair access and a disabled toilet.
- ❖ Parking available at Cattle Market Carpark, 50 yards down the road. Park in the opposite corner to the Library, near the Painted Fan Chinese Restaurant. At time of preparing this programme parking is free in the evening.
- ❖ The room is open from 7.00 p.m. and we start our meetings at 7.30 p.m. prompt.
- ❖ Donations to Devon Wildlife Trust for the Talks evenings are requested at **£3.00** per adult. Children are welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult. Children are admitted free.
- ❖ Organised by Barnstaple & District DWT Local Group. Contact persons: **Paul**: 01271 812617, madgett@hotmail.com for general enquiries, or as advised below for specific events.

Friday 13th Sept. 2019 at 7.30pm. Talk: **"The Wonderful World of Bats – how we are helping North Devon's Greater Horseshoes"** by Ruth Testa, project manager for the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project. Contact John Breeds for more information at john_breeds@hotmail.com or phone 07773 085 984.

Saturday 28th Sept. 2019; evg. **Badger Watch near Tiverton** – fully booked.

Friday 4th Oct. 2019 at 7.30pm. Talk: **"DWT – challenges for the next two years"** by Harry Barton, DWT Chief Executive. (Harry may also talk about the "25 year Plan for a Wilder Devon")
Contact Fiona Baker for more information at fuffwicks@btinternet.com

Sunday 20th Oct. 2019, 2 – c5pm **"Autumn Colours" at Godborough Devon Birds reserve.** A local Devon Birds member will guide us around their reserve, planted in the last 20 years or so with a wide variety of berry-bearing shrubs. Meet at the reserve entrance, on minor road passing under A39, grid ref. SS 435 273. Small donation for DWT funds requested. Please book in advance with John Breeds at john_breeds@hotmail.com or phone 07773 085 984.

Saturday 26th Oct. 2019 (am & pm) Possible date for a **"Bird-Nest-Box Erecting"** session at Sheila Downs' woodland on north slope of Saunton Down, Croyde. Contact Sheila for details at srdowns@btinternet.com

Sunday 3rd Nov. 2019, 10am – c.4pm **Fungus Foray (Exmoor)** (Joint event with Devon Fungus Group)
Learn about the wonderful world of Fungi with our expert leaders, Nicola Bacciu and David Farley, as we help survey two areas of Exmoor. Meet at Hillsford Bridge National Trust car park (donation box for NT) SS 740 477. Bring packed lunch. Afternoon session near Ammony, park at SS 758 494. Small donation requested.
Please book in advance with Paul Madgett, 01271 812617, madgett@hotmail.com

Friday 8th Nov. 2019 at 7.30pm. Talk: **"Devon's Harvest Mice"** by Sarah Butcher, Devon Mammal Group's Harvest Mouse project officer, to find out where **harvest mice** can be found in Devon, and the research now helping them. Contact Vernon Clarke for more information at v.clarke@tozers.co.uk

Sunday 10th Nov. 2019, 10am – c4pm. **Work party at Swanpool Marsh reserve.** Help maintain this rare wetland habitat. Advance booking essential; contact Mary Breeds on 01271 817349.

Saturday 16th November 2019, 10.30am to 3.30pm. **DWT AGM at Exeter University**
See DWT website for details and to book; or contact HQ at Cricklepit Mill, Exeter, on 01392 260845.

Friday 13th Dec. 2019 at 7.30pm. Talk: **"Remember Last Summer?" (Paul Madgett) plus Christmas Quiz (devised by Debbie Frazer).** A medley of slides by participants to remind us of the glorious summer of 2019, where we went, what we saw, also what is planned for 2020; followed by Debbie's seasonal quiz (and seasonal refreshments – bring some to share?).

Sunday 15th Dec. 2019, 10am to c4pm. **Work party at Uppacott Wood.**
Various maintenance tasks around this woodland reserve; also check out the ponds we dug last winter, to increase biodiversity. Meet at the lay-by on the left of the A377 just south of Bishops Tawton to share cars to the reserve (very limited parking there). Advance booking essential, contact Paul Madgett to book, madgett@hotmail.com or 01271 812617.

Friday 10th Jan. 2020 at 7.30pm. Talk: **"Devon's Orchards; How Devon Took to Cider"** by Michael Gee, author of several books on orchards and orchard trees (copies of latest may be available to purchase).
Contact Paul Madgett at madgett@hotmail.com for further details.

Sunday 19th Jan. 2020, 10am – c4pm. **Work party at Swanpool Marsh reserve.** (Details as for 10th November)

Sunday 2nd Feb. 2020, 10am to c4pm. **Work party at Uppacott Wood.** (Details as for 9th Dec.)

Friday 7th February 2020 at 7.30pm. Talk: “**The Wonderful World of Flies**” by Rob Wolton, chairman of the Dipterists Forum. Contact John Breeds for more information at john_breeds@hotmail.com or phone 07773 085 984.

Sunday 9th Feb. 2020, 11am to 3pm. **Lichens – A Beginners’ Workshop**

Indoor session with microscopes to see growth forms, reproduction mechanisms plus spot testing with lichens on both trees and rocks. Bring x10 hand lenses if you have them.

Venue: Braunton Countryside Centre, off Caen Street, Braunton (park in Caen St car-park – charge - or use No.21 bus from Barnstaple /Bideford /Ilfracombe).

Within walking distance there are eat-in and take-out facilities. Hot drinks will be provided.

Numbers Strictly Limited – book early with Maxine Putnam at maxieput@talktalk.net

Donation of £10 per head requested.

Friday 6th March 2020 at 7.30pm. Talk: “**Seals**” by Sue Sayer, founder of Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust. Sue has some fantastic images, and will impart fascinating facts about the Seals of the South-West.

Contact Tony Bown for more information at tony@tonybown.co.uk

Saturday 21st March 2020, 11am to 3pm **Lichen outdoor meeting – tree lichens – Ilfracombe**

Meet at Ilfracombe Swimming Pool car-park, off A399, grid ref. SS 529 474 (small charge).

Bring x10 hand lenses if you have them; also bring packed lunch. Donations to DWT via the Barnstaple Local Group.

Book early with Maxine at: maxieput@talktalk.net

Friday 3rd April 2020 at 7.30pm. Short **AGM** of the Barnstaple & District Local Group.

Followed by a talk on “**Badgers, Beds, Bypasses, Baptists & Banshees**” by Paul Madgett.

Late April to mid-August 2020: a programme of weekly “**Wildlife Walks**”, every Tuesday evening, 7pm to c.9pm; plus occasional daytime outdoor events (programme currently being developed).

Ideas for venues, topics, offers to lead events – please contact Paul this autumn.

Our Local Group events will be listed on the DWT website: <http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org> and notified to the email groups below.

If you would like to receive email updates of our Local Group activities see the Barnstaple Local Group page on the DWT website, and click on “Sign Up for Newsletter”, following instructions from there.

To be kept in touch with other natural history-related events in northern Devon, and to share nat.hist. sightings, etc., consider joining the **North Devon Natural History Network** – contact Paul Madgett for further details.

[Free! – a “closed” email group, you won’t be “spammed”]

Plus: Regular Conservation Work Parties at Meeth Quarry DWT Reserve.

Contact Ian Chadwick (Reserves Officer) for details: ichadwick@devonwildlifetrust.org or 01837 811889.

Check out the DWT website, www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/our-projects for information on possible volunteering opportunities with some of these projects.

[If you live close enough to Dolton, don’t forget to check the DWT website for details of the **Halsdon & Dolton Local Group** events]

Request: in order that we can continue in future years with programmes of events such as above, we need further volunteers for general help, specific tasks in arranging our events, and running the Local Group.

“Many Hands Make Light Work”.

Please talk with any committee member about this, or contact Paul Madgett.