

Practical conservation tasks

There are regular opportunities to get more involved in the practical management of the site, usually on a Thursday or at weekends between September and May. Work normally involves the cutting back of scrub using hand tools. Please contact Sarah West (countryside@bcpcouncil.gov.uk) to join the conservation volunteer mailing list.

Are you a friend?

Receive events programme and attend events for less, by becoming a member. Membership only costs £3 per adult. Please contact the chairman for further details.

Useful Contacts:

Melanie Gibbons, Membership Sec. Friends of St Catherine's Hill melaniegibbons@hotmail.com	01202 470849
Lisa Sharp, Heathland Mitigation Ranger Lisa.sharp@bcpcouncil.gov.uk	07584 641860
Robin Harley, East Area Countryside Manager robin.harley@bcpcouncil.gov.uk	01202 817605
James Palmer, Lead Countryside Ranger james.palmer@bcpcouncil.gov.uk	01202 817428
Dorset Police (Christchurch West Beat)	101 (non emergency line)

Website: www.fsch.org.uk



Events Programme 2026



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Friends of St Catherine's Hill Events Programme 2026

Events are subject to change and weather conditions on the day, please e-mail Lisa Sharp: countryside@bcpcouncil.gov.uk for further information.

Most guided walks and talks are charged at £2 per member and £4 per non-member (accompanied children free). All proceeds will go towards the running of the group and funding items on site. Most events open to non-members.

Sun 22nd March *Wildlife Walk at Hengistbury Head* 10am – 12pm
Join BCP Rangers for a wonderful walk around this spectacular site. This will be a general walk looking out and learning about the varied wildlife that Hengistbury has to offer.
Meet in the Courtyard at the Visitor Centre
W3w///hung.dreams.shower SZ1660391084

Sat 18th April *Poetry of Spring* 10am- 12pm
Join BCP's very own Poet Richard Hesketh for walk on the hill to enjoy spring flora and fauna, and to hear some spring poetry by William Wordsworth, Charlotte Mew, Gerard Manley Hopkins and many more. Feel free to bring along your favourite spring poem to have read out during the walk. *Meet at entrance at the top of Marlow Drive: w3w///anchorman.yarn.erase SZ1409295291*

Wed 22nd April *Annual General Meeting* 8 pm
Get an update on the 16th year of the Friends and elect officers; followed by refreshments. *Meet in St Catherine's Community Hall. Doors open from 8pm.*
w3w///stardom.marinated.result SZ140509249

Sun 10th May *Reptiles in the Heather* 9:45am -12pm
Join Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust's Gary Powell for a morning walk to look for our six native reptiles and learn about their conservation. *Meet in small gravel car park opposite the Avon Causeway Pub, Hurn*
w3w///reference.alarmed.opponent SZ1369597552

21st June *Here there be Dragonflies* 11am-1pm
Celebrating Dragonfly week, Join Andrew Brown, Dorset County Recorder for a guided walk to see some of the many dragonfly and damselfly species found on site. *Meet in the small gravel car park opposite the Avon Causeway Pub, Hurn.*
w3w///reference.alarmed.opponent SZ1369597552

Heath Week 25th July -2nd Aug

Each year we have a whole week dedicated to celebrating our amazing heathlands. Please keep an eye out for additional events

Sat 25th July *Fantastic Moths Event* 10am-12pm
Join BCP rangers and discover what amazing Moths inhabit the site through the night time. A Moth trap will have been run the evening before and we will have the chance to see these fascinating species
Meet on site by the water reservoirs w3w///edgy.areas..emporium
Nearest entrance Top of Marlow Drive w3w///anchorman.yarn.eras SZ1409295291

Sat 1st Aug *Fun Crafts and activities* 10am-12pm Free Event
Come and join the Heathland Mitigation Rangers and enjoy a fun morning of crafts and activities with a Heathland theme.
Meet on site by the water reservoirs. w3w///edgy.areas..emporium
Nearest entrance Top of Marlow Drive w3w///anchorman.yarn.erase SZ1409295291

Wed 12th Aug *Creatures of the night* 8pm-late
Evening night walk to find out more about the nocturnal wildlife that inhabit St Catherines Hill. This walk will be led by BCP Rangers. Torch and insect repellent recommended.
Meet at entrance of Orford Close and Hillside Drive w3w///zeal.haystack.vine SZ1389895827

Sat 5th Sept *Spiders of the heath* 2pm-4pm
Join naturalist Simon Moore for a fascinating guided walk as we go in search of the many spider species that call the heath their home.
Meet at entrance at the top of Sandy Lane W3w///commit.welfare.boomed SZ1443994890

Sun 11th Oct *Little Rotters* 11am-1pm
Join naturalist Phil Budd for a mushroom identification walk. We will be focusing on identification and learning about the ecology of the varied species found on site, rather than picking.
Meet at entrance of Orford Close and Hillside Drive. w3w///zeal.haystack.vine SZ1389895827

Sat 21st Nov *Through the Ages* 11 am-1pm
Join Rick Sharp for a trip through time and find out more about the rich and varied past of this special area, from the Bronze Age to the present. *Meet at entrance at the top of Marlow Drive w3w///anchorman.yarn.erase SZ1409295291*

Wed Dec 9th *Christmas Social & Fun Quiz* 7.30pm-9.30pm
Annual festive get together for members, with mulled wine, mince pies and prizes. Maximum team size of six people—**booking in advance essential** via Melanie Gibbons. Tickets £4 members, £6 non-members.
Meet at St Catherine's Community Hall. w3w///stardom.marinated.result SZ1405095249