

**The Friends of Paxton Pits'
Traditional Nightingale Festival**

Paxton Pits' Nightingales

Thursday 26th April 7:30pm

An illustrated talk by Ray Matthews

THIS TALK IS FOR 'FRIENDS' MEMBERS ONLY

Paxton Pits is Cambridgeshire's premier site for Nightingales. Get yourself ready for their return as Ray's presentation unravels some of the mysteries of this secretive species. Why do they keep coming back? Why such a complex song?

No need to book. Donations invited.

Plant Sale

Sunday 29th April 10:30am - 3:30pm

In aid of habitat management for nightingales at Paxton Pits. Choose from a wide variety of plants for your garden at very agreeable prices. Plants for colour, structure, butterflies and bees and for that special wild patch - they will all be here!

Dawn Chorus and Breakfast

Monday 7th May 5:30am

The walk will start at the Visitors' Centre at 5:30am and return later for breakfast.

The walk is free (donations invited), but the breakfast is £4 - payable on the day. **Please book breakfast in advance** on 07801 063245

Nightingale Evensong

Thursday 10th May from 7:30pm

Our ever popular public guided walks for all comers, are led by our team of expert local volunteers. We counted 30 singing males last year - how many will return this year?

No need to book. Donations invited.

Nightingale Festival (Cont.)

Children's Nightingale Fun Evening

Saturday 12th May 6:30pm - 8:30pm

A special evening of fun and games for **children aged 7 - 11** and accompanying adults.

Limited to the first 20 children.

Please book in advance - children £5 each accompanying adults free. Book through the Visitors' Centre (01480 406795) or by e-mail on:

paxtonpits@btconnect.com

JUNE

The Meadow in June

Sunday 10th June 10:30am

A guided walk on the Reserve's best established meadow to enjoy the glorious wildflowers that 20 years of traditional 'hay meadow' management have produced. Local botanists will be joining us to help with identification and to give the background to some of our special flowers.

No need to book. Donations invited.

Coming in our Autumn programme (provisional)

An August BBQ in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust.

A selection of interesting events including talks and guided walks on the Reserve.

All will be revealed in the next edition of our Events Programme, due out in early June 2012

Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve is a charity registered in England and Wales, No. 1125221, and is funded entirely by its membership and fund-raising activities.

If you have any questions, or would like more information please contact: Paxton Pits Nature Reserve Visitors' Centre on: 01480 406795

Or Trevor Gunton on: 01480 473562

Or visit our web site at: <http://www.paxton-pits.org.uk>

**EVENTS PROGRAMME
JANUARY - JUNE 2012**



*Friends of Paxton Pits
Nature Reserve*

All events are held, or start, at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve Visitors' Centre unless otherwise stated.

Where no cost is indicated the event is free.

A charge may be made for refreshments.

Events are open to all unless otherwise stated.

Please phone if you have any special needs, in particular, regarding the use of wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Visitors are advised to wear suitable clothing for outdoor events with strong boots or shoes and to remember hats in the summer sun.

Paxton Pits Nature Reserve Visitors' Centre is at the end of the High Street in Little Paxton. Enter PE19 6ET on Google maps, or your SatNav.

JANUARY

Sunday January 1st

New Year's Day 'Tick & Twitch'

In previous years we have spotted over 50 birds on the Heron Trail on New Years Day. On a special Guided walk (led by Senior Ranger Jim Stevenson) we undertake to help you see as many species as possible, but only if you donate 10p for every species we show you. And don't forget your binoculars (or your money).

Starts at the Visitors' Centre at **10am prompt**

The Wonder of Winter Wildlife

Join experts from the Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve for spectacular winter birds, advice on feeding birds, and much more. Hot refreshments. (free guided walks at 10.30 am and 2.00 pm).

Everyone welcome. 10.00am to sunset

Third Thursday Guided Walk

Thursday January 19th 10:30am - 12:30pm
With local experts. There will be plenty of winter wildfowl and other winter visitors about to occupy and entertain us - will the smew have arrived?

£2.00 each - pay on the day.

How did I get here? What am I doing?

Wednesday January 25th 7:30pm

THIS TALK IS FOR 'FRIENDS' MEMBERS ONLY

Senior Ranger Jim Stevenson presents a chat show in which he will muse on life, the universe, and Paxton Pits. Jim is an excellent speaker and this promises to be one of the highlights of this year's programme.

FEBRUARY

Third Thursday Guided Walk

Thursday February 16th 10:30am - 12:30pm
With local experts. There will be early signs of spring with both grey herons and cormorants showing signs of breeding. We should also see wildfowl displaying in their courtship rituals.

£2.00 each - pay on the day.

MARCH

Third Thursday Guided Walk

Thursday March 15th 10:30am - 12:30pm
With local experts. Today we will seek out early flowers and search the scrub for breeding species of birds. With little leaf growth this is a good time to 'spot' the more elusive ones.

£2.00 each - pay on the day.

MARCH (Cont.)

Get to Know Your Camera

Saturdays 17th and 24th March at 2:00pm
In the Environmental Education Centre
(The new building at the start of the Heron Trail)

John McDonough leads this two part course which aims to explain how cameras work. The first session covers the different parts of a camera and what they contribute to the final picture. The second session will use the knowledge gained in the first part to discover how to take better photographs - particularly of 'nature'.

Technical terms and expressions will be kept to the minimum, and plain language used throughout.

£10 for the two sessions - limited to the first 15 applicants. Please **book and pay in advance** on 01480 351823 or at the Visitors' Centre

PS. Don't forget to bring your camera!



APRIL

Third Thursday Guided Walk

Thursday April 19th 10:30am - 12:30pm
With local experts. Come and celebrate spring with a guided walk around some special places for our migrant wildlife - will we see a nightingale?

£2.00 each - pay on the day

***The Friends AGM followed by
Bird Migration - an illustrated talk by:
Professor Ian Newton FRS, OBE.
at Little Paxton Village Hall***

Friday March 16th 7:30pm

The short AGM will include a Reserve update, and will be swiftly followed by:

Professor Ian Newton will review our current understanding on the mystery of bird migration, its evolution, and how it is changing under the influence of climate change. His presentation will include the major challenges that birds face on their travels, and the remarkable adaptations that enable them to take such demanding journeys.

Professor Newton is one of the world's leading ornithologists and is currently chairman of the British Trust for Ornithology.