



# MK Festival of Nature

29 June - 7 July 2019



A special 9-day programme of activities  
to celebrate the beautiful and inspiring nature  
found in Milton Keynes' green space.



[www.MKfestivalofnature.org](http://www.MKfestivalofnature.org)

#MKFoN



Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



MILTON KEYNES  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY



# Discover the great outdoors in our green city

With over 6,000 acres of beautiful parks, woodlands and lakes to explore, you're never far from nature.

The Parks Trust is an independent, self-funded charity and we care for and maintain the green space across Milton Keynes. We ensure these spaces are expertly maintained and managed and we also plan, develop and invest for the future, so that everyone can enjoy the outdoors, now and forever.

- 🐦 We organise and enable over 450 annual events from Festival of Nature to World Picnic, organised runs to led walks - there's something for everyone
- 🐦 We offer outdoor learning and education opportunities for all ages
- 🐦 We run parties and exploration activities for adventurers big and small
- 🐦 Come and try a whole host of watersports activities at Willen Lake!



For more information please visit  
[www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)

# Welcome



## Welcome to your guide to Milton Keynes' 2019 Festival of Nature.

Organised in partnership by The Parks Trust, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust and Milton Keynes Natural History Society, the Festival of Nature is a celebration of the fascinating and varied nature that can be found across the city.

There is a wide-ranging programme of activities available for people of all ages, located in areas across the city. It's a great opportunity to find out more about the creatures and plants we may see every day, and those that are a little rarer.

Full details about each activity can be found within this booklet. For some events, booking will be essential and details for how to do this can be found in each event description. The activities in this booklet are subject to change – please visit [www.mkfestivalofnature.org](http://www.mkfestivalofnature.org) or [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com) for up to date information.

We hope you enjoy this year's Festival of Nature – do share your photos and feedback from the week on our social media channels below, using #MKFoN

**f** theparkstrust

**t** @theparkstrust

**i** @theparkstrust

**b** bowwildlifetrust

@bbowt

@bbowt

**w** [www.mknhs.org.uk](http://www.mknhs.org.uk)

Thank you to all the partners, volunteers and suppliers we have worked with for this year's Festival of Nature.



# What's on



## **MOTH MORNING**

**Sat 29 June 8am-10am**

**Linford Lakes Nature Reserve**

£2

*Booking essential.*

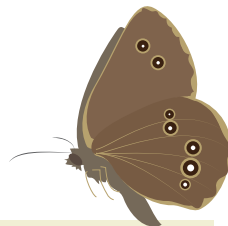
*Book online at [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com)*

*01908 255379*

Learn about day-flying moths and their identification. Enjoy tea and coffee at the Education Centre after the session.

*Meet in the Education Centre car park, off Wolverton Road, Great Linford, MK14 5AH.*



## **GET INTU NATURE**

**Sat 29 June 10am-4pm**

**intu, Milton Keynes**

FREE

Come and join our Wild Zone in INTU Milton Keynes, meet the Festival of Nature team and find out what's on during the week. A selection of the entries from the 5 days scrapbook challenge will also be on display.

*Parking is available by the shopping centre.*

*No booking required.*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com)*

*01908 255379*

## **LITTLE LINFORD**

### **WOODLAND WALK**

**Mon 1 July 10.30am-12.30pm**

**Little Linford Wood**

FREE - donations welcome

Join the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust for a guided walk through the fantastic Little Linford Wood looking at the wildflowers, butterflies and other wonderful woodland wildlife.

*Little Linford Wood, 4.5 miles north of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK16 8LU.*

*Booking essential.*

*Book online at [www.bbowt.org.uk/events/](http://www.bbowt.org.uk/events/)*

*2019-07-01-little-linford-woodland-walk*

*For further information please contact:*

*[petebray@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:petebray@bbowt.org.uk) 01869 245864*





## BIOBLITZ

**Tue 2 July All day**

**Howe Park Wood**

**FREE**



*Booking essential.*

*Book online at: [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com)*

*01908 255379*

A 24-hour survey (also called a bioblitz) will be held to discover the variety of different birds, bugs and plants that make their homes in the places we look after. Come and get involved with a bird survey or moth session, or just take a walk around the park while we survey and gain a snapshot of the area's biodiversity. An evening bat walk will also take place throughout the woodland area.

*Limited spaces available at Howe Park Wood Education Centre. Please use Westcroft District Centre opposite the park for further parking.*

## GUIDED BIRD WALK

**Tue 2 July 10am**

**Howe Park Wood**

**FREE**



*Booking essential. Limited space.*

*Book online at [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com) 01908 255379*

We will be surveying the wood for late summer migrants both by ear and vision, as well as listening for established territories. We hope to add quite a few avian species to the day list as well as learning how to differentiate bird calls and separate those tricky songsters.

*Meet at Howe Park Wood Education Centre, off H7 Chaffron Way, opposite the Westcroft District Centre.*

## WILDLIFE ACTION

**Tue 2 July 11am-2pm**

**Fred Roche Gardens**

**Central MK, MK9 2ND**

**FREE**

Join into Green Gym to discover a range of exciting activities and learn how you can help local wildlife. Activities suitable for all abilities, no experience needed. Hot drinks and snacks available during the mid-way break.

*The garden is located behind Christ the Cornerstone church in Central MK, please meet in the middle of the garden.*

*Booking essential.*

*Please contact Emma at*

*[emma.eteen@tcv.org.uk](mailto:emma.eteen@tcv.org.uk) or call 07740 899633 to confirm a place.*

# What's on



## SUMMER BIRDING AT THE LAKES

**Wed 3 July 8am-10am**

**Willen Lake North**

£3 per person



*Booking essential. Limited places.*

*Book online at [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com) 01908 255379*

Come and see what the birdlife is doing during the summer at one of Milton Keynes leisure lakes; the breeding season will be in full swing and we would expect to see lots of nesting and feeding activity. Grebes, ducks, swans, geese and warblers will all be evident along the lakes margins.

*Parking is available at V10 Brickhill Street between H5 Portway and H4 Danstead Way (near the Pagoda and Temple).*

## TEENS GO WILD

**Thu 4 July 7pm-9pm**

**Linford Lakes Nature Reserve**

**FREE**

Are you aged between 11 and 15 years? Join Milton Keynes Natural History Society and The Parks Trust for an evening of nature activities - get involved with animal tracking, pond dipping, bird watching and more. Enjoy a hot drink and toasted marshmallows around the fire pit once you've finished exploring the reserve. Come and join the fun!

*Booking essential. Limited places.*

*Book online at [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com) 01908 255379*

*Parking is available at Linford Lakes Education Centre, Wolverton Road, Great Linford, MK14 5AH.*

## RETURN TO NATURE WITH NICK BAKER

**Thu 4 July 7.30pm**

**The Venue**

£12 per adult £10 concession



*Booking essential.*

*Book online at*

*[www.bbwt.org.uk/events/2019-07-04-return-nature-nick-baker](http://www.bbwt.org.uk/events/2019-07-04-return-nature-nick-baker)*

*For further information please contact: 01442 826774*

Naturalist and TV presenter Nick Baker has travelled to every corner of the globe while following his passion for the natural world. Join Nick for an inspiring evening, for all ages, as he describes the art of returning to nature and how to get back in touch with our "wild" senses.

*Parking is available at The Venue, Fyfield Barrow, Walnut Tree, MK7 7WH.*



**FAMILY BAT WALK**  
**Fri 5 July 9pm-11pm**  
**Linford Lakes Nature Reserve**  
£2 per person

Join our bat enthusiasts for an evening walk to discover nocturnal animals which fly in the skies above Linford Lakes. Suitable for families.

*Meet in the Education Centre car park, off Wolverton Road, Great Linford, MK14 5AH.*

*Booking essential. Book online at [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com) 01908 255379*

**GUIDED BIRD WALK**  
**Sat 6 July various**  
**Howe Park Wood**  
FREE



Come and find out the avian highlights of one of Milton Keynes ancient woodlands. We expect summer visitors and residents alike to be defending their territories, as well as some early fledglings or evidence of adults feeding young. With any luck we may spot a few nests.

*Meet at Howe Park Wood Education Centre, off H7 Chaffron Way, opposite the Westcroft District Centre.*

*No booking required.*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com) 01908 255379*

**NATURE DAY**  
**Sat 6 July 11am-4pm**  
**Howe Park Wood**  
FREE

Join The Parks Trust, MK Natural History Society and Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust for a day dedicated to nature. Enjoy a variety of activities, crafts and guided walks throughout the day, including a bird walk with local enthusiast Simon Nichols.

*Limited spaces available at Howe Park Education Centre. Please use Westcroft District Centre opposite the park for further parking.*

*Booking essential.*

*Book online at [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)*

*For further information please contact: [events@theparkstrust.com](mailto:events@theparkstrust.com) 01908 255379*

**IMPROVING ACCESS  
TO BLACKHORSE WOOD**  
**Sun 7 July 10am-12noon**  
**Great Linford Manor Park**  
FREE

Join The Parks Trust and Friends of Great Linford Manor Park as we build a woodchip path to improve accessibility. Organised in support of the Trust's £3.7 million Heritage Lottery Funded project to 'Reveal, Revive and Restore' this park. Brief guided walk.

*Meet at the Arts Centre car park, off Parklands, MK14 5DZ.*

# Discover...

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



fresh air

Discover your perfect day out with the **Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust.**

Take a look at our packed events programme, with everything from fascinating talks to family discovery days.

We've also got over 80 nature reserves to explore, from tranquil woodlands to colourful meadows.



getting stuck in



breath-taking views



wild events



learning something new

Discover more at  
**[bbowt.org.uk](http://bbowt.org.uk)**

# Five Days Wild Scrapbook Challenge

We're running a special competition for schools.  
It's very easy to get involved, simply:

- 1 Complete five Random Acts of Wildness with your class.
- 2 Tell us what you did by creating a class scrapbook with photos, drawings and writing.
- 3 Send your scrapbook to us for a chance to win a fantastic prize for your school.

*It was a pleasure to take part in the Five Days Wild Scrapbook Challenge with the Rabbits class in the summer. Winning the runners up prizes and certificate was a fantastic end to the children's enthusiastic and rewarding learning outside of the classroom. The challenges that our children took part in were not only fun but helped their young minds to value and understand their world around them.*

**Teacher  
Germander Park School**



*The competition email and booklet should have already arrived at your school – please ask your teacher!*

Photos: Ric Mellis Photography





**FREE**  
**#MKPlayday**

**Wednesday 7th August 2019**

**The National Day for Play**

**Milton Keynes Playday**  
**Campbell Park**

**11am - 4pm**

The largest free play event in Milton Keynes brought to you by MK Play Partnership. Join in the with activities and games and enjoy the main stage entertainment.

Use the pay and display centre:mk car parks or public transport from CMK and follow the Redway footbridge which leads into the park. Cycle parking will be available.

[www.mkplayday.wordpress.com](http://www.mkplayday.wordpress.com)

 @MKPlayDay

 @mkplayday



# Milton Keynes Natural History Society

Harry Appleyard



- Love nature?
- Interested in birds, butterflies, wildflowers?
- Enjoy talks on topics related to natural history?
- Like getting out and about on walks to see local wildlife sites?

MILTON KEYNES  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY



## Then why not join your local Natural History Society?

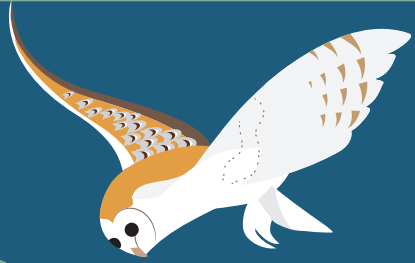
Founded in 1968, the Society is one of the most active of its kind in the country and this year we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. We have members interested in birds, flowers, butterflies and other insects, spiders, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, fungi, mosses and many other areas of natural history. Whatever aspect of nature you are interested in, you will find kindred spirits in our Society to share, and further, your interest. But you don't have to be an expert to come along and enjoy our events, everyone is welcome.

In the winter we hold weekly meetings almost every Tuesday in the medieval Cruck Barn at Bradwell Abbey, in the heart of Milton Keynes. These meetings are addressed by invited expert naturalists from around the country as well as some of our own members. In the summer we go out on Tuesday evenings for walks in local sites of special natural history and wildlife interest. These walks are not strenuous and offer you the chance to visit local wildlife sites and enjoy meeting like-minded individuals.

We are a friendly, welcoming bunch of people – why not join us!

To find out more and view the current programme visit [www.mknhs.org.uk](http://www.mknhs.org.uk)





We would like to thank all the partners and suppliers we have worked with for the 2019 Festival of Nature, these include:



A special thanks to Nick Baker.



Photo: Daisy Beck Studios

For more information:



Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



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