



Pensychnant

Spring Programme 2020

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Very rarely, events may need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, or may be fully-booked. Phone if you need to be sure.

PENSYCHNANT NATURE RESERVE

Open Thursday - Sunday, all year, 9am-6pm (or dusk)

The woods are wintry now, with occasional groups of winter thrushes in the fields. Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler will arrive in March; Pied Flycatcher and Redstart will hopefully arrive in the first or second week of April. Although it seems bleak now, we are coming to the best season of the year.



Friday 7th February, 7:30pm

‘BLUE FAERIES’ BY RICHARD BIRCH

Blue Faeries is a film about conservation in Australia, covering 3 generations of experience, and coming right up to date with Richard’s trip to Australia to revisit some of the conservation projects in 2019. Richard won’t divulge the meaning of the title, ‘Blue Faeries’, so you will have to come along to find out. Cambrian Ornithological Society meeting. £1

Wednesday 12th February, 7:30pm

‘IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON COASTAL LANDSCAPES AND HERITAGE IN WALES’ BY DR. SARAH DAVIES

Recent storms have highlighted the vulnerability of our coasts to current and future climate change, but there has been less emphasis on implications for coastal heritage. North Wales Geology Association meeting.

Thursday 13th February, 10am onwards.

WORK PARTY: HEDGE PLANTING

Pensychnant is planting a new hedge to provide new habitat for wildlife. 1400 native tree whips need to be planted; hawthorn, blackthorn, rowan, birch, bird cherry, alder, ... Wear work clothes, boots and gloves. Bring lunch, and a spade.

Saturday 15th February, 10am onwards.

WORK PARTY: HEDGE PLANTING

In case we don’t finish on Thursday! Wear work clothes, boots and gloves. ☺

Saturday 22nd February, 3.30pm

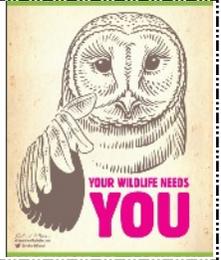
BEACHED BIRD SURVEY

A walk along the strandline from Conwy Beacons to Penmaenbach recording washed-up remains of dead seabirds as part of the 50th national RSPB Beached Bird Survey. Six miles walking on sand is quite far, and to catch the low tide it will be going dark on the return. Bring provisions. Meet at Beacons car park, SH772791 Phone for arrangements.

Friday 28th February, 2:30

SUPPORTERS’ TE TRI: PENSYCHNANT NEEDS YOU!

Afternoon tea. When Anne left Pensychnant in December it left a big void. Now we need to muster extra help from you, but also to hear your wishes for the future of Pensychnant and share ours. And if all else fails, we’ll eat cake ☺



Monday 2nd March, 8pm.

MOTH GROUP

Informal meeting of North Wales Moth Group. Donations appreciated ☺

Friday 6th March, 7:30pm

‘THE MYSTERY OF BIRD MIGRATION’ BY RICHARD HOLLAND

Richard Holland (Bangor University) researches the cognitive processes and sensory mechanisms by which animals navigate and migrate. He will compare and contrast across species, taxa, age-classes, spatial scale, and physiology to reveal how natural selection has shaped navigation behaviour in different animal groups. Cambrian Ornithological Society meeting. £1

Thursday 26th March, all day.

CONWY SEED FAIR

Pensychnant will again have a stall at Conwy’s 700 year-old street fair. Please support us. ☺

Friday 27th March, 7:30pm

“PINE MARTENS” BY CRAIG SHUTTLEWORTH

Craig Shuttleworth has been instrumental in the successful conservation of the Red Squirrel on Anglesey. He now hopes for similar success with the reintroduction of Pine Martens to Gwynedd. There are thoughts that Pine Martens might help in the eradication of Grey Squirrels, to the benefit of the reds. This remains uncertain but it is very exciting to have the elusive Pine Marten back in our neighbourhood. £3



PENSYCHNANT'S WILDLIFE ART EXHIBITIONS 2020

Thursdays- Sundays (plus bank holiday Mondays), 11 -5pm

2nd April to 27th September.

Suggested donation £2.50

Exhibition of originals, prints and photographs in various styles and media:

Birds in their landscapes by renowned Anglesey artist **Philip Snow**,

Native Butterflies by **Julie Horner**,

Evocative meadows and wild flowers by **Liz Bolloten**,

Wild flowers in design by **Betty Mills**,

Botanical watercolours by **Angela Rigby-Doble**,

Bardsey Birdlife by **Emma and Steve Stansfield**,

British Birds by **Ian Wright**

Crashing seascapes and sunny landscapes by **Paula Salmons**

Woodcraft by **Chris Slinn**,

Designs on nature by **Bee Williams**

Stunning wildlife photography by **John and Tracy Langley** (O.W.L.)

Fastidious, detailed pictures of animals in nature by **Barbara Winrow**,

Anyone else want to exhibit wildlife art next year? Please contact me!

If you would like to help steward the exhibition occasionally, this would be a great help. It's easy. Let me know.



Friday 3rd April, 7:30pm

'WATER FOR LIFE' BY KEITH OFFORD

From the wildfowl and waders of our coasts, lakes and rivers, to Dippers on fast-flowing streams, birds exhibit a variety of fascinating adaptations for an aquatic existence. Equally, adaptation is needed to meet the challenges of arid environments. Cambrian Ornithological Society meeting. £1

Monday 6th April, 8pm.

MOTH GROUP

Informal meeting of North Wales Moth Group. Donations appreciated ☺

Tuesday 14th April, 10am

WILD DAFFODILS AT LLANGELYNIN

A short excursion to see the Wild Daffodils at Llangelynin, known locally as 'Daffodil Mountain' and hear about the renewed efforts to conserve them, by fencing, and by propagation. We will cheat by going by car. Meet at Pensychnant to share transport, or 'phone to agree a plan to meet up.

Wednesday 15th April, 10am

SPRING LAMB WALK

A short walk around Pensychnant's Farm to discuss the farming year and environmentally friendlier farming, with the lambs gambolling around. Maybe there will be pet lambs to feed. Donations appreciated ☺

Saturday 18th April, all day

DRYSTONE WALLING TASTER DAY

An introduction to the skill of dry-stone walling, from foundation stones to copings, under the guidance of a master craftsman from the Dry-stone Walling Association. £25 Contact Paul Smyth (01766) 513213 for details and bookings.

Monday 20th April, 10am

BLUEBELL & PRIMROSE WALK

A short walk along local footpaths to see the Oakwood primroses. This simple pleasure is all too rare in today's world. About 3 miles easy walking. Wear suitable boots. Donations appreciated ☺

Tuesday 21st April, 10am onwards

WORK PARTY: DRYSTONE WALLING

A day with Snowdonia Society, rebuilding a section of Pensychnant's walls. Instruction will be given. Wear toe-cap boots and work gloves. Bring lunch. Booking essential with Mary Williams, mary@snowdonia-society.org.uk 01286 685498

Thursday 23rd April, 10-2pm.

FORAGING WALK WITH DAVE PHILLIPS

Join Dave Phillips, The Wanderer, to explore Pensychnant's woods and learn about the plants and their uses in food and medicine, ending with a Q&A session and a 'foraged tea'. Bring lunch. Booking essential from Shirley Williams; 01492 574628; shirley.williams1@conwy.gov.uk

Donations appreciated ☺

Weekend 25-26th April, all day

DRYSTONE WALLING WEEKEND

A full weekend course in drystone walling, from foundation stones to copings, under the guidance of a master craftsman from the Drystone Walling Association. £90 Contact Paul Smyth (01766) 513213 for details and bookings.

Friday 1st May, 7:30pm

'NIGHTINGALES OF FINGRINHOE WICK' BY MATT COLE

Now at the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Matt managed the Essex Wildlife Trust's Fingrinhoe Wick reserve which hosts 40 pairs of Nightingales. Cambrian Ornithological Society meeting. £1

Monday 4th May, 8pm.

MOTH GROUP

Informal meeting of North Wales Moth Group. Donations appreciated ☺

Tuesday 5th May 10am.

PIED FLYCATCHER WALK

A short amble through Pensychnant's woodlands to see the spring migrants and resident birds. Donations appreciated ☺

Monday 18th May, 10am

CUCKOO WALK

According to legend, centuries ago, the parish council of Dolwyddelan decided to build a wall all around the parish to keep the Cuckoo therein all year round. We will be checking Pensychnant's walls! Hopefully we will hear and see the Cuckoo, a species which has declined by 65% since 1980's. About 2 ½ miles. Not far but some steep rocky places. Stout footwear. Bring provisions. Bring binoculars.

Donations appreciated ☺



Tuesday 19th May, 10am onwards

WORK PARTY: DRYSTONE WALLING

Another day with Snowdonia Society, rebuilding Pensychnant's walls. Instruction will be given. Wear toe-cap boots and work gloves. Bring lunch. Booking essential with Mary Williams, mary@snowdonia-society.org.uk 01286 685498

Weekend 30th - 31st May, 10am -4pm

RSPB 25TH ANNIVERSARY FAIR

Congratulations to RSPB Conwy on their 25th anniversary. There will be various activities, stalls, guided walks and Pensychnant will have a stall. Please come to say hello.

Monday 1st June, 8pm.

MOTH GROUP

Informal meeting of North Wales Moth Group. Donations appreciated ☺

Friday 5th June 8:30pm till late.

NIGHTJARS & MOTHS

A twilight walk in Gwydir Forest to see birds, plants and other wildlife, halting on the Cors Bodgynydd Nature Reserve as darkness falls to (hopefully) hear and see Nightjars. After dark, stay to see the moths at the trap. A North Wales Wildlife Trust event. Meet at Cyffty Mine SH773588. Bring torch and midge repellent. Book with Mark Sheridan 01492 583820

Sunday 7th June, 10-5pm.

OPEN GARDEN FOR NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Pensychnant will open for the National Garden Scheme again. Tea & cakes available on the lawn in the sunshine. Plants for sale. £3.50 entrance in aid of Marie Curie, MacMillan Nurses and other caring charities.



Saturday 20th June, 11am - 4pm

INSECTAGANZA

A celebration of our six-legged friends (and maybe a few extra crawlies) with North Wales Wildlife Trust for National Insect Week. Various activities, walks, presentations, nature-friendly gardening tips, insect safaris, moths, butterflies, bees, children's games..... Tea & cake. Donations appreciated ☺

Tuesday 23rd June, 10am onwards

WORK PARTY: DRYSTONE WALLING

Another day with Snowdonia Society, rebuilding Pensychnant's endless walls. Instruction will be given. Wear toe-cap boots and work gloves. Bring lunch. Booking essential with Mary Williams, 01286 685498; mary@snowdonia-society.org.uk

Friday 26th June, 10pm till late.

GLOW-WORMS & MOTHS

A nocturnal walk led by Mark Sheridan on the Great Orme to see the glow-worms; or are they fairy lights in the grass? Finishing with the moth trap by the Toll House. Some steep and uneven, rocky paths. Meet at West Shore Pump House SH770822. A torch is essential. Book with Mark Sheridan 01492 583820

Tuesday 30th June, 10am onwards.

SCREAMING PARTY

A short walk (1½ miles) to Crow's Nest to see the Swifts nesting in the eaves and watch their screaming parties, while eating tea and cake in the garden. How can we encourage swifts to colonise Pensychnant?

Weekend 11th - 12th July,

ASHWORTH'S RUSTIC WEEKEND

Our annual search for Pensychnant's rarest moths, the Ashworth's Rustic and Weaver's Wave. We will set the traps at 9pm and some nutters will stay with the traps all night; or be lazy and come at 11am on Sunday to peruse the catch over a cuppa. Weather permitting there will be thousands of moths of over a hundred species. Good photo opportunities on Sunday.

Monday - Friday, 13th - 17th July

WEEK 29

Taken all-together, the ¾ million North Wales Moth records show the 29th week of the year to be the most biodiverse, having the most individuals of the most species. Whether this is true for all invertebrate taxa we don't know. We will devote this week to recording as many species as possible at Pensychnant, setting the moth trap every night, leaving no stone unturned by day; and having books and microscopes available for identification of all species groups. Everything from book-lice to badgers. Come along anytime to see what we've found!