**Friends of Bradgers Hill Meeting – 13 April 2016, 7:00 – 8:30pm**

**Present:** Bob & Rita Tarron, Charulata Patel, Judith Batson, James & Margaret Hetherington, Paul Hammond, David & Abi Coupe, Kathryn Knights, Judy Entwistle, Alan Mason, Trevor Tween, Scott Ashdown, Julie Cassidy, Ann Burnish, Natalie Lander.

**Apologies:** None.

**April Litter Pick**

Successfully took place on Sunday 17 April, with a good turnout and Bradgers Hill now looks very tidy!

**Butterfly Surveying**

* Dave shared details of the route for transect that he has mapped out for our first butterfly survey
* The transect will be walked approximately once a week and a couple of surveys have been collected already. May is the first big month and the second is August
* Dave has contacted the names of other volunteers and has suggested dates for a group walk to show them the route. Other volunteers welcome – please contact *davecoupe26@gmail.com*
* All data will be added online to the Beds Natural History site and that will automatically be added to the County records
* Notes from our butterfly expert guest speaker, Greg Herbert, below.

**Slow Worms & Lizard Surveying**

* Trevor reported that surveying will be undertaken on Bradgers Hill. The survey takes place every 5 years to check if we have a breeding population. They are rare reptiles and seldomly seen, so the survey will be a useful insight
* The survey will take place once a week from now onwards, for a period of 8 weeks, and also in the autumn. Volunteers very welcome - with a polite warning not to turn them! **Action:** Please contact Paul if you are interested in helping.

**Calendar of 2016 Events**

* 11 May Meeting - Andy Grimshaw - speaking on Birds of Bradgers Hill and our Dawn Chorus Walk agreed for Saturday 14 May, meeting at 5:15am
* 8 June Meeting – 7:00pm, no guest speaker
* 22 June Evening Orchid Walk – led by Trevor, departing from the Community Centre
* July – Wildlife Weekend - Friday 15th July 2016 - Moth Event

Sunday 17th July 2016 - Litter Pick & Evening Astronomy Event

Suggested to have a butterfly transect walk

* Contact has been made with farmer Lionel Shaw – Autumn dates have been suggested him to come and speak with us
* Badger Walk evening – Charulata liaising with Trevor.

**Old Bedford Road Estates (Paul)**

* Contact made with their solicitor which is a step forward (the only thing they are obligated to do is keep the right of way open). Paul has now written to them with regards to an annual inspection and we expect a response once they have made contact with the trustees.

**Friends of Luton Parks & Green Spaces subgroup meeting on Right of Ways (James)**

* No updates since March 2016.

**Educational Links (Paul)**

* Paul has heard back from Bushmead Primary, Stopsley High and Luton Sixth Form College, who are all interested in linking with us in June/July 2016. This will be done in collaboration with Trevor and Esther.

**Funding**

* David Franks has suggested that we may be able to bid for up to £2k for signage to encourage walks on the hills. Paul is taking this forward.

**Guest Speaker - Greg Herbert (Bedfordshire & Northampton butterfly Conservation)**

* Previous butterfly survey on Bradgers Hill done between 1995 – 1999. In 1999 1814 butterflies were recorded.
* Butterflies we might see on our transects include: Small tortoise shell, brown argus, green hairstreak, small blue (size of 2 small finger nails), small copper, common blue, chalk hill blue, cabbage white, greenday white, brimstone, giant dwarf orange tip, dingy skipper, griddled skipper, large skipper, small skipper, Essex skipper, dark green fritillary, peacock, comma, red admiral, painted lady, white admiral, duke of burgundy, marbled white, speckled wood, small heath, meadow brown
* Chicksands Wood and Dunstable Downs were suggested other good local spots to see butterflies
* Suggested reading - Butterflies of Britain by Jeremy Thomas.

**AOB**

* Nothing raised.