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**EuCAN Community Interest Company**

**Springhead Training weekend and get-together**

**incorporating the AGM**

Springhead Study Centre, Fontmell Magna, Dorset

July 17th – 19th 2015

**Programme for the weekend**

**Friday July 17th**

The residential weekend will begin with tea and cakes between 4.30 and 5.30pm. If you are travelling by car, please aim to arrive between 4 and 5pm. If you are arriving by train, it should be possible to meet you at Gillingham station at 4pm (trains arrive from west and east around 15.50. If you would like to offer a lift to someone, please contact me. For directions, go to [**http://www.springheadtrust.co.uk/location.php**](http://www.springheadtrust.co.uk/location.php) . If you get lost on your way and need to contact me during Friday afternoon/evening, please ring my mobile 07981 776767 or if that fails, The Springhead Trust 01747 811853.

The programme for the weekend may be amended to take account of the weather and other factors.

4.30pm Tea at Springhead

5.30pm Introductory walk before supper.

7 pm Supper. Please make sure you tell us in advance of any dietary requirements.

8.30pm Introduction to the programme for the weekend.

 Reports of our conservation visits to La Brenne in February and the wildlife holidays to Aggtelek, Hungary in May and La Brenne in June.

If the conditions are good, we will put out the moth traps tonight and take the bat detectors into the garden.

**Saturday July 18th**

8am Breakfast. You will be able to make yourself a packed lunch after breakfast.

9 am Analysis of the moths trapped last night. Moth identification and classification into families.

10.30am Refreshments

10.45am The Ecology and Conservation of Bumble Bees – a presentation by John Butler of the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust, followed by a walk through the garden at Springhead to identify some of the Bumble bees there

12.30 We will continue up to Fontmell Down Reserve (taking packed lunches) to see the chalk downland flora, butterflies and other insects there including of course the Bumble bees. We aim to spend the majority of the day there and if appropriate, will divide into specialism groups. The reserve is within easy walking distance of Springhead and is a superb chalk downland site managed by The Dorset Wildlife Trust. This site was one of the first in Dorset to be monitored by Butterfly Conservation through its transect walking scheme and so has over thirty years of records which are hugely valuable. Those unfamiliar with the transect walking scheme will be given a training session.

4pm Tea and cake at Springhead.

5pm The AGM of EuCAN Community Interest Company will take place in the Mill Room.

7pm Supper.

After supper there will be an opportunity for participants, volunteers and EuCAN members to give short

presentations about the work they have been doing recently. Bring your presentation on a memory stick or

computer – but please keep to a maximum length of 20 minutes!

Once again we will put out the moth traps and go bat detecting if the conditions are suitable.

**Sunday July 19th**

7.30am We might start the analysis of the moth traps from the previous night before breakfast especially if there is a good number of species!

8am Breakfast followed by sandwich making.

9am Analysis of the moth traps from the previous night followed by coffee and biscuits.

10.30am Today we will visit Melbury Wood, an interesting conservation challenge, not far east of Springhead. It is a 60 year old beech plantation sited on what was formerly very rich chalk downland habitat. There is a colony of Adonis Blues and, last year, a few Chalkhill Blues in one of the main rides. The conservation dilemma is whether to fell some or all the woodland to reinstate the downland. As a comparison, we will also look at an area adjacent to Fontmell Down reserve where plantations were cleared in the 1990’s to allow the area to revert to chalk downland.

4 – 4.30pm. Final tea and cake.

We can arrange lifts to the station etc after this – aiming to get to Gillingham station for the 5.21 or 6.21 train to the west or the 5.54 train to London.

**What to bring:**

You never know what the weather might throw at us especially this year, so come prepared for all

eventualities - especially if you are camping!

Bring binoculars, camera and handlens if you have them. Bring waterproof footwear for the outdoor

activities. Please bring any butterfly, moth or wildflower id books you have got.

If you have a collection of photos to illustrate your present project or what you are doing/have done or are

particularly interested in at the moment, could you bring them on a memory stick/disc for Saturday night.

Bedlinen is supplied but please bring a towel.

You will need a lunchbox and a flask for a hot drink if you are likely to want one.

If you have any special dietary needs that we don’t know about, please let me know before the weekend!

Please note the food provided for us will be mainly organic.

Contact me if you are prepared to offer anyone a lift so that we can minimize transport costs and carbon

footprint.

Best wishes, we are very much looking forward to seeing you on Friday July 17th. Á bientôt, viszontlátásra, do widzenia, na shledanou, see you soon!

Nigel Spring all the EuCAN gang

(01963 23559 or email: or email: nigel@eucan.org.uk )

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The ims of EuCAN CIC are

* to encourage and facilitate cultural exhange and the exchange of environmental ideas and skills between the UK and other countries (particularly within the European Union).
* to promote practical conservation volunteering both in the UK and abroad
* to promote the conservation of the physical and natural environment by promoting biodiversity.
* to encourage sustainable development in the rural economy through environmentally sensitive farming and food production.
* to promote the research and development of systems of conservation management and agriculture which are both economically viable and environmentally sustainable.
* to provide education and training related to these activities and to disseminate relevant information and guidance to the public at large.

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