

FRIENDS OF BENTLEY WOOD

Programme 2026

Keep an eye on your email for reminders about or updates on these dates.

*We much appreciate your RSVPs – where requested.
This enables us to work out how much food and drink we need to provide.*

Friday 10 April

AGM at Winterslow Village Hall

The meeting will start at 11am and finish by 12 noon.

Do come and meet the committee and hear our plans for the year. Please ask any questions you may have.

See below, [Nature Notes 2025](#), for information about the distribution of Nature Notes this year.

Saturday 11 April

Bentley Wood Conservation Volunteers: Bean Pole Celebration

10am to 12.30pm at the Barn

For a modest cash donation come and pick up bean poles and pea sticks produced in the wood by the BW Conservation Volunteers. You are welcome to arrive any time between 10am and 12.30pm though if demand is high supplies may not last!

Enter at the Livery Gate entrance (off Livery Road) or the Tytherley Road (Eastern Clearing) entrance. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided, donations welcome.

Sunday 19 April

Spring Drive through the Wood

Gates open at 2pm and close at 4pm.

Drive through the Wood by car to see woodland trees spring back into life and, of course, the bluebells. Enter at the Livery Gate entrance only (off Livery Road) and come along for refreshments at the Barn.

Donations to the Friends welcome.

Thursday 23 April

Evening Bluebell and Birdsong Walk

6.30pm

Enjoy the sights and sounds of spring. Join us for a relaxed birdsong and bluebell evening walk, an easy-going gentle stroll with time to chat, enriched by the expertise of Steve Oakes from the South Wilts RSPB group.

Meet at the notice board just inside the Livery Gate entrance (off Livery Road)
what 3 words: volunteered.waistcoat.tonight

Sunday 31 May

Morning at RSPB Roundbarrow Down, Pitton

10.00am to 12.30pm – meet at 9.45am.

A chance to visit the new reserve at Roundbarrow Down in the company of RSPB Chalk Reserves wardens Patrick Cashman and Robert Blackler.

Meet at the farmyard, Roundbarrow Down Farm, Pitton Road, Pitton, SP5 1EQ
There will be RSPB signs showing where to turn into the farmyard. (what3words genius.luck.command). Sorry, there are no toilets.

Tuesday 14 July

Summer evening Walk with the Bats... and, if we are lucky, some glow worms...

Meet at 8.30pm at the Tytherley Road (Eastern Clearing) car park.

Wear suitable clothes, walking shoes and bring a head torch. The walk will last just over an hour, and we'll have electronic bat detectors to use. If you have your own detector, please do bring it.

Sunday 16 August

FOBW Summer Picnic at the Barn

12.30pm to 2.30pm

A great opportunity to socialise with other Friends. Come and hear about the activities in the wood for local children that your membership has supported and enjoy a summer picnic in the Wood.

We look forward to seeing you all.

RSVP if you wish to join the Picnic please by Thursday 13 August to:

secretary@friendsofbentleywood.org.uk

October 2026 tbc

Annual Bentley Wood Fungus Recording Day.

Meeting place tbc via email during the summer. Come and learn to recognise and identify some amazing fungi. Joint meeting between FOBW, Salisbury & District Natural History Society and Wiltshire Botanical Society. Coordinator Ailsa McKee will divide us into groups with a few people picking then gather us at the end for an identification session. Please wear suitable footwear for rough/muddy terrain. **Not open to non-members, please.**

Look out for a Membermojo email with the date nearer the time.

Sunday 1 November

Autumn Drive Through.

Gates open at 2pm and close at 4pm.

Drive into the wood by car and see the autumn colours (if we're lucky!). Enter at Livery Gate entrance only (off Livery Road) and come along for tea, coffee and cakes at the Barn. Then drive to the Draining Field (**one-way** signposted route) and exit via Howe Farm Track onto Livery Road (**NB Forestry operations permitting**).

Donations to the Friends welcome.

Saturday 28 November

Friends' Celebration of the Year in Bentley Wood.

At Winterslow Village Hall, from 12 noon until 2pm.

Our seasonal lunchtime celebration of a year in Bentley Wood. Do come and enjoy the company of fellow Friends. Buffet lunch and wine, a raffle and a look back at what has happened in the Wood in 2025. We look forward to welcoming you.

RSVP please by Thursday 26 November to:

secretary@friendsofbentleywood.org.uk

The Trustees have asked us to remind Friends that the picking of flowers or collecting of any specimen from Bentley Wood is not permitted.

Please refer to your FOBW map for the location of The Barn and the car parks referred to in the programme.

You enter Bentley Wood to take part in events at your own risk.

If you require more information on any of the events organised, please email:

secretary@friendsofbentleywood.org.uk

Nature Notes 2025

All members will have received a digital copy of *Nature Notes 2025* by email, and a copy is also available to read on the Friends' page of Membermojo.

Please see the separate email to members (on 8.3.26) for information on how to receive your free printed copy, if you would like one.

Bentley Wood newsletter

To sign up for the Bentley Wood email newsletter go to:

friendsofbentleywood.substack.com

When you sign up you will have access to all the past published posts. You will receive a newsletter when the next one is published after you join.