

Programme of events: July to September 2025

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PROGRAMME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE – Please check the website or Contact BNSS before you travel.

		JULY			
Tuesday 1 st July 7:30pm Zoom only	Ornithology	Sex: Nature's Greatest Mystery. part 2: Repercussions. <i>Speaker</i> Tony Fulford		Chairman: Mary Thornton	
	In Part 1 we covered the possible origins of genetic exchange and sexual reproduction in Eukaryotes and how we have ended up with two sexes. Now in Part 2 we will look at some of the consequences of sexual reproduction. We will discuss the implications of sex for the concept of species, whether it is necessary to exchange genes every generation, how an individual's sex is determined, what governs sex roles, and the part sexual selection plays in evolution.				
Tuesday 8 th July 7.30pm Zoom only	Zoology Lecture	In Search of the Thylacine <i>Speaker</i> Jonathan McGowan		Chairman: Mary Thornton	
	This Australian marsupial supposedly went extinct soon after the 1930s but with hundreds of sightings in mainland Australia, Tasmania and even Papua New Guinea, could it still exist? With reflections of a failed expedition to search for evidence, and a few possible photos of the animals continued existence, I put across the argument that it still exists in small numbers. Maybe there is still hope that this enigmatic animal still survives.				
Saturday 12 July 10.00-1230	Young Explorers	Magnetism			Leader Steve Limburn
Saturday 12 th July 2.30pm Inhouse and Zoom	General Lecture	Sir Merton Russell-Cotes and a Victorian Villa <i>Speaker</i> David Beardsley			Chairman Mary Thornton
	We all know the Russell Cotes Museum, but what is the Rusell Cotes's history and where is it going? David will tell us of Sir Merton's early life, his part in Bournemouth's development, his travels and his villa.				
Tuesday 15 th July 7.30pm Inhouse	Archaeology Lecture	Art and Illustration in Archaeology <i>Speaker</i> Bryan Popple			Chairman Jo Crane
	Bryan will discuss the early work of gentlemen archaeologists like General Pitt Rivers and Heywood Sumner and more unlikely characters who became involved in drawing sites, objects and reconstructions. Bryan is our resident Archaeology Chair and has extensive experience of both				
Tuesday 22 nd July 7.30pm Zoom only	Astronomy Lecture	Orbital Oddities <i>Speaker</i> James Fradgley			Chairman Kathleen White
	Strange Goings on with 3 or more Bodies! James will look at Lagrange Points, Roche Limits, Rings, Strange Orbits, Orbital Resonances, Rotational Resonances and Roche Lobes.				
Saturday 26 th July 2.30pm Inhouse and Zoom	General Lecture	Charting your course: Mapping 100 years of community and coastal change in Poole Harbour <i>Speaker</i> Oliver Hutchinson			Chairman: Sally Grant
	Our changing coastlines reflect our changing lives, as shifting shorelines force coastal communities to adapt to new opportunities and challenges. Coasts In Mind is a new project mapping those changes from the people's perspective in a bid to marry the colour of human experience with the science of coastal change. Oliver Hutchinson is a coastal archaeologist with over a decade of experience working with communities in the south of England. He has worked extensively in Essex on the Blackwater estuary, working with the community of Mersea Island to record the rich but rapidly eroding archaeological record exposed with each low tide there. Based at Museum of London Archaeology, he was a presenter on the Channel 4 series Britain at Low Tide and now produces short documentaries on coastal archaeology as part of the Coasts In Mind project.				

Tuesday 29th July 7.30pm	Technology Lecture	Shaping Worlds: How New Tech is Changing the Way Stories Are Made <i>Speaker</i> Rafi Nizam	<i>Chairman</i> Margaret Ross
Zoom only	You don't need to make virtual reality content to benefit from the tools behind it. In this talk, discover how creative technology is transforming the way stories are developed—making it faster, more collaborative, and more intuitive than ever. Award-winning creative leader Rafi Nizam shares behind-the-scenes insights from his work in film, TV, animation, games, and books—showing how virtual reality and digital tools are helping him bring big ideas to life and realise all kinds of stories. Whether you're a filmmaker, animator, writer, producer or artist, this session offers a glimpse into the future of storytelling—and how you can be part of it.		
		AUGUST	
	NOTE: There are no Saturday afternoon Lectures in August. Please check the website for Museum Opening Details.		
	It is hoped that The Museum will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays as in the past. However, as we go to print, we do not have a full complement of volunteers to open our doors. If you are interested in helping, please email: contact@bnss.org.uk		
Tuesday 5th August 7.30pm	Science Lecture	Darwin's Barnacles, Sea Gooseberries and Medusae <i>Speaker</i> Grenham Ireland	<i>Chairman</i> Margaret Ross
Zoom only	Grenham Ireland, our Chair of Science, will talk about some observations of these marine animals illustrated with his own pictures and videos with a bit of history thrown in.		
Tuesday 12th August 7.30pm	Zoology Lecture	Lowland Heathlands under Threat <i>Speaker</i> Jonathan McGowan	<i>Chairman:</i> Margaret Ross
Zoom only	Our precious Dorset heathlands are experiencing the largest threat to their existence in modern times. With fires being the biggest threat, and afforestation being the second, and thirdly, use by the public and their dogs. This is bad enough but will they be built on in the near future?		
Tuesday 19th August 7.30pm	Archaeology Lecture	Discovery From Above - Local Aerial Archaeology Ancient and Modern. <i>Speaker</i> Jo Crane	<i>Chairman:</i> Margaret Ross
Zoom only	Jo Crane and his wife Sue have for many years owned a microlight that they have used for photographing nearby archaeological sites and their photos have appeared in many publications. He will present some of these, often fascinating, photographs and will also mention some of the recent advances in detecting archaeology from the air.		
Tuesday 26th August 7.30pm	Science Lecture	Riverfly Monitoring across Dorset Chalk Streams <i>Speaker</i> Julie Leah	<i>Chairman</i> Mary Thornton
Zoom only	Dorset Wild Rivers is a partnership programme to improve the rivers of Dorset through in-river interventions, land management and community engagement. Across the county various projects have been started to assess the health of our rivers and chalk streams. Tonight, Julie will tell us about the Riverfly monitoring project .		
		SEPTEMBER	
Tuesday 2nd September 7.30pm	General Lecture	Joan Freeman: A Passion for Physics <i>Speaker</i> Ceri Edwards	<i>Chairman</i> Mary Thornton
Zoom only	The story of how an Australian girl managed to overcome social barriers, pursue her passion and become a physicist.		
Tuesday 9th September 7.30pm	Archaeology Lecture	Dorset in the Battle of Britain <i>Speaker</i> John Smith	<i>Chairman</i> Bryan Popple
Inhouse only	On the 25th August 1940, the German Luftwaffe intended to put R.A.F. Warmwell Airfield out of action. The attack involved nearly 40 bomber aircraft escorted by over 200 fighters, and possibly the largest single target raid of the Battle of Britain. 2025 is the 85th anniversary of this action.		

Saturday 13 September 10.00-12.30	Young Explorers	Battle Of Britain	<i>Chairman</i> John Smith
Saturday 13th September 2.30pm Inhouse Only	Science Lecture	Carbon capture: is it safe; will it work? <i>Speaker</i> Giles Watts	<i>Chairman:</i> Robin Hewitt
Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a controversial means of storing CO2 in underlying geological reservoirs. Many international organisations and governments say that this is an essential technology for reaching Net Zero targets by 2050 and the only way of decarbonising certain industrial processes (such as cement manufacture and steel making). Others suggest that CCS does not reduce emissions as much as is claimed and is just an excuse for the oil industry to maintain their old and polluting ways and a failure to embrace truly green alternatives. Giles will explain what CCS is, how CCS schemes are progressing in the UK and around the world, and explains why Dorset might be suitable as a Carbon Capture site in the future.			
Dorset Architectural Heritage Week			
Tuesday 16th September 7.30pm Inhouse and Zoom	General Lecture	Letters from Exile: William Bankes and the re-making of Kingston Lacy <i>Speaker</i> John Hubbard	<i>Chairman:</i> Colin Lord
This is the story of how William Bankes organised the rebuilding of Kingston Lacy from abroad when Bankes was unable to return to this country for fear of being arrested.			
Wednesday 17th September	Building Open	Two Tours of the Building 11.00 am and 2.00pm showing off our architectural heritage	<i>Leader</i> Colin Lord
Tuesday 23rd September 7.30pm Zoom only	Marine Science	Marine Life Learning <i>Speaker</i> Matt Green	<i>Chairman:</i> Mary Thornton
Matt has become a local celebrity in South Wales where he has combed the beaches for all sorts of marine life and become very knowledgeable about varied species ecology and habits. Come for some stunning photos and anecdotes.			
Saturday 27th September 2.30pm Inhouse only	General Lecture	Merton's Dream Garden - The story of the Russell-Cotes Garden <i>Speaker</i> Phil Broomfield	<i>Chairman</i> Robin Hewitt
Phil has been running a garden maintenance business for fourteen years and is a local coordinator for the National Garden Scheme. Phil is lead garden volunteer at the Russell-Cotes Museum garden. This is a sub-tropical clifftop garden overlooking Poole Bay. The talk will cover the original design and layout of the Russell-Cotes garden and how it has evolved, highlighting key features, with a spotlight on plants and showcasing how it looks through the seasons.			
Tuesday 30th September 7:30pm Inhouse and Zoom	Assembly and Quiz		<i>Chairman:</i> John Smith