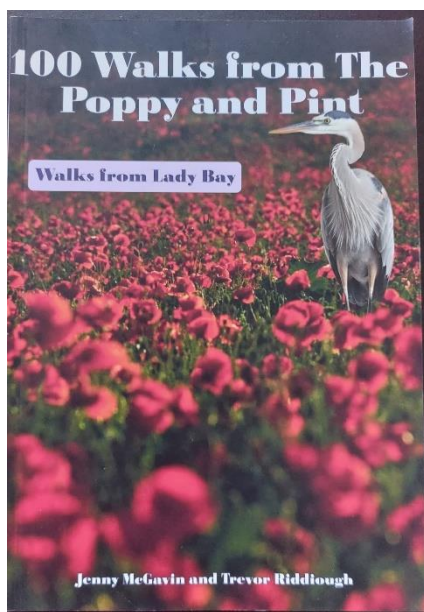


News from Friends of The Hook – May 2024

Good News!

We have just heard we have been awarded a grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy to repair and restore the Wildlife Pond. The liner has been leaking, so during dry weather it has dried up completely. Contractors EMEC, linked to the Wildlife Trust, will first collect any wildlife and plants from the pond and store them safely. Then they'll scrape away the mud surface and establish where the leak in the liner is and the reason for it. Then they'll repair, reline and fill the pond. We've also asked for a dipping platform, to make it easier to dip without wearing out the banks of the pond.



Generous Donation

A brilliant new book of 100 local walks is out now. And all profits from its sale go to Friends of The Hook. What could be better?

It's already on sale price £8 at The Poppy and Pint and there'll be a big launch event there on May 2nd starting 7.30 with quizzes and more.

Jenny McGavin and Trevor Riddiough compiled the list of walks as a lockdown project and once they started they couldn't stop! The book gives detailed instructions as well as clear maps.

Brimstone butterfly out of hibernation

If you spot a flash of sulphurous yellow, it could be a Brimstone butterfly, emerging from its winter hibernation. It will be looking for a mate - the females are a paler, whitish yellow. She will lay her fertilised eggs on the underside of leaves of alder buckthorn and the bright green caterpillars will emerge later in spring. We've tried to make The Hook as inviting as possible, by planting alder buckthorn and sowing wildflower mixes, so we hope they respond to our invitation!



Butterflies are a key indicator species - that means they tell us about the health of the wider environment, so it's important we know about how they are doing. Our team of volunteers will be out every week from April to October walking the same route, called a transect, and counting the numbers and species of butterfly. We'll keep you posted on their findings.

Dawn Chorus Bird Walk

**Sunday 5 May 5.45 am meet at the bottom of Holme Grove steps
Book your place – email friendsofthehook@gmail.com**



The hours just before dawn are when birds sing at their loudest. Safe in the low light from predators, they sing to establish their territory and to attract a mate. It's a very special experience to hear them, worth getting out of bed for!

Lady Bay Birdwatchers will be helping to identify the birds by their call and, as it gets lighter, they'll have a telescope/binoculars to identify them by sight as well.

Wildflower Trail

We hope to set out the self-guided Wildflower Trail in the summer. It is likely to be the last week in June and first in July. But much depends on the weather – with the rainy winter and floods, who knows what is yet to come?

The orchard is looking full of promise with lots of seedlings emerging.

Look out for posters – or sign up for our newsletter to get details into your inbox.
friendsofthehook@gmail.com

