

Voluntary and Community Action

Environment, Conservation and Sustainable Development Directory

Directory of Organisations No.2

September 2007

This Directory of Organisations lists many of the organisations working in South Bedfordshire to improve and preserve our local environment. It includes those that work specifically to protect wildlife habitats to groups who campaign and raise awareness of sustainable development, fair-trade and environmental issues.

Many of the services provided by these organisations are undertaken by volunteers. If you, or anybody else you know, are interested in giving some of your time to help any of these groups, please get in touch with the Volunteer Centre on 01525 850559 to find out more.

Barton and District Conservation Group

Conservation and enhancement of local character and distinctiveness of Barton-le-Clay and surrounding area by: improvement of public rights of way and opportunities for access to open countryside; tree propagation and planting; monitoring of local development plans; collection of records relating to local history; and a regular recreational walks.

Name: Tony Northwood
Address: 2 Ivel Close, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4NT
Comms: T: 01582 883155, F: 01582 882459

Last Updated: 15/12/2005



Bedfordshire Association for National Trust Members

Aims to raise awareness and funds for the National Trust and its work in preserving Britain's heritage. It provides a local focus for National Trust members in Bedfordshire with regular meetings throughout the year, outings and social events.

Address: 121 Hitchin Road, Shefford, Bedford, SG17 5JD
Comms: T: 01462 811142

Last Updated: 20/06/2006

Bedfordshire Badger Network

The Badger Network exists to monitor badger populations and distributions within the county. It also advises on legal issues relating to badgers and comments upon development proposals where badgers may be affected. Opening hours Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Address: c/o Wildlife Trust, Priory Park, Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9SH
Comms: T: 01234 364213, F: 01234 328520

E: bedfordshire@wildlifebcnp.org, W: www.wildlifebcnp.org

Last Updated: 04/04/2006

This is the second in a series of printed directories focusing on services offered by voluntary organisations and community groups in Bedfordshire.



You can also search for other local groups by clicking on the Find a Local Group icon on our website: <http://www.action-centralbeds.org.uk>



Bedfordshire Bat Group

The group exist to protect bats within the county, recording bat distribution, surveying roost sites and taking care of injured bats.

Address: 16 Judith Gardens, Potton, Sandy,
SG19 2RJ

Comms: T: 07885 798856

W: www.batsinbeds.org

Last Updated: 04/04/2006

Bedfordshire Conservation Volunteers

Exist to conserve the countryside, help, protect and enhance wildlife sites (footpaths, woodlands, ponds, heath/moorland) and to allow people to put something back into the environment. The group helps with the maintenance and management of Nature Reserves and other sites of scientific importance. They help to conserve the character and amenity of Bedfordshire and occasionally, further afield, concentrating particularly on wildlife sites. Increasing accessibility and understanding of the countryside and environment is also a big part of the group's function.

Name: Andy Burns

Address: 49 Littledale Street, Kempston,
Bedford, MK42 8PJ

Comms: T: 01234 400231

E: info1@bedscv.freeseerve.co.uk

W: www.bedscv.freeseerve.co.uk

Last Updated: 17/09/2007

Blows Down Conservation Group

Voluntary membership is offered to adults and young people interested in conservation and wildlife on chalk down land. They organise walks, monitor wildlife, publish information pamphlets, and meet for scrub clearance parties on last Sunday morning in October, November, January, February and March.

Name: Tony Bliss

Address: 42 Apollo Close, Dunstable, LU5 4AQ

Comms: T: 01582 704664

Last Updated: 18/07/2007

British Naturalists' Association - Ouse and Nene Branch

The BNA aims to promote study and research as well as to encourage the education of the public in all branches of natural history and to actively support the conservation of wildlife.

Name: T Thomas

Address: 142 Selbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8LS

Comms: T: 01582 516992

W: www.bna-naturalists.org

Last Updated: 26/06/2006

BTCV Bedfordshire

BTCV exist to provide practical conservation work for volunteers including countryside management and various community projects such as wildlife monitoring scrubland clearance and providing furniture such as stiles and gates, bird boxes etc. The also organise walks.

Name: Ben Hammond

Address: Taylor House,, 99 Ashburnham Road,
Bedford, MK40 1EA

Comms: T: 01234 327300, F: 01234 327040,

E: b.hammond@btcv.org.uk

Last Updated: 10/01/2007

Luton and Dunstable Conservation Volunteers

Address: C/o John Dony Field Centre, Hancock
Drive Bushmead, Luton, LU2 7SF

Comms: T: 01582 486983

Last Updated: 08/11/2005

Butterfly Conservation Ltd - Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Branch

Dedicated to saving wild butterflies, moths and their habitats, the society aims to purchase and manage habitats and survey butterfly populations. Habitat management is carried out on Sundays during the winter in areas of great butterfly interest. Habitat maintenance is carried out by volunteers on the chalkdown lands of South Bedfordshire.

Address: 40 Plum Tree Road, Lower Stondon,
Henlow, SG16 6NE

Comms: T: 01462 851309

Last Updated: 17/04/2007

Caddington Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are cared for and given first aid and veterinary treatment before being rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

Name: Angela Smith
Address: 139 Dunstable Road,
Caddington, LU1 4AN
Comms: T: 01582 730896

Last Updated: 25/04/2006

Campaign to Protect Rural England - Bedfordshire Branch

Seeks to promote and protect Bedfordshire's countryside for current and future generations. Works to influence planning policy and decisions on issues adversely affecting the countryside, such as inappropriate and unsustainable development, housing sprawl, noise and light pollution, traffic blight and litter. Membership/assistance open to all.

Name: Thurstan Adburgham
Address: 5 Grove Place, Bedford, MK40 3JJ
Comms: T: 01234 353331, F: 01234 353331
E: info@cprebeds.org.uk
W: www.cprebeds.org.uk

Last Updated: 06/09/2007

Chiltern Society

The Chiltern Society is a large environmental organisation actively helping to 'Care for the Chilterns'. Projects include Ewelme Watercress Beds, Bottom Wood (nature reserve), Lacey Green windmill. The society lobbies on a wide range of environmental issues and monitor 2,200 miles of footpaths, organise 2-3 walks per week, monitor rivers, streams and ponds and participate in education and school projects. A programme of conservation and social events is open to all members. Opening hours are 9.00am - 5.00pm

Address: White Hill Centre, White Hill,
Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1AG
Comms: T: 01494 771250, F: 01494 771250
E: office@chilternsociety.org.uk
W: www.chilternsociety.org.uk

Last Updated: 10/01/2006

Chilterns Conservation Board

A statutory body charged with the protection

and enhancement of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Board members are drawn from local communities. They run projects and bring organisations together to improve the landscapes and biodiversity of the Chilterns and people's enjoyment of this area.

Name: Claire Forrest
Address: The Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor,
Oxfordshire, OX39 4HA
Comms: T: 01844 355500, F: 01844 355501
E: office@chilternsaonb.org
W: www.chilternsaonb.org

Last Updated: 13/09/2007

Chilterns Woodlands Project

Promote and encourage the sustainable management of woods in the Chilterns. They offer advice to landowners and increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the Chiltern woods. Volunteers and community groups identify, record and interpret the special trees and woods of the Chilterns, and investigate the social and cultural history of trees. They publish a 'News of the Woods' newsletter.

Name: John Morris
Address: The Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor,
Oxon, Oxfordshire, OX39 4HA
Comms: T: 01844 355503, F: 01844 355510
E: woodlands@chilternsaonb.org
W: www.chilternsaonb.org

Last Updated: 19/09/2007

Fairtrade Leighton Linlade

Fairtrade Leighton-Linslade is a group which aims to raise public awareness of Fairtrade issues within Leighton Linlade. They encourage local businesses to stock Fairtrade products alongside their existing brands and local workplaces and organisations to use Fairtrade products. They also aim to promote the benefits of Fairtrade to producers, in our town and encourage people to use Fairtrade products. They organise a number of events throughout the year, in particular during Fairtrade Fortnight. Volunteers are always welcome as there are many different ways that you can help.

Name: Angela Feaviour
Address: 5 Dovehouse Close, Edlesborough,

Dunstable, LU6 2JL
 Comms: T: 01525 221780
 E: angela.feaviour@btinternet.com

Last Updated: 05/19/2007

Freecycle

By using what we already have on this earth, we reduce consumerism, manufacture fewer goods, and lessen the impact on the earth. Freecycle groups matches people who have things they need to get rid of with people who can use them at no cost. Their goal is to keep usable items out of the landfill promoting community involvement in the process.

Leighton Buzzard Group

Name: Simon Cansdale
 Comms: E: freecyleleighton-buzzard-owner@yahoo.co.uk,
 W: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/freecycleleighton-buzzard/>

Last Updated: 12/09/2007

Dunstable Group

Comms: E: freecycleDunstable-owner@yahoo.co.uk
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecycledunstable/>

Last Updated: 15/09/2007

Friends of the Earth - South Bedfordshire

A friendly and diverse group working together to protect both the local and global environment. At a local level they campaign for better cycling, walking and buses, saving local green spaces and wildlife, campaigning for renewable energy and energy efficiency in homes, reducing waste and supporting local shops, markets and local food. Nationally they are campaigning for a strong Climate Change Bill through parliament. Globally they are campaigning to save rainforests etc. They meet once a month, alternately in Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable. They welcome all to come along to meetings and action days.

Name: Victoria Harvey
 Address: 41 Corbet Ride, Linslade, LU7 2SJ
 Comms: T: 01525 385097
 E: vharvey@btopenworld.com
 W: www.southbedsfoe.co.uk/index.htm

Last Updated: 23/09/2007

Greensand Trust

The Greensand Trust is an independent environmental charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and promote the distinctive landscape, wildlife and history of the Greensand Ridge and the wider surrounding area. Improving access, understanding and enjoyment for the benefit of everyone.

Name: Keith McCarthy
 Address: Stockgrove Country Park, Brickhill Road, Heath and Reach, LU7 OBA
 Comms: T: 01525 237760
 E: rangers@stockgrove.co.uk

Last Updated: 05/12/2006

Groundwork Luton and South Bedfordshire

Groundwork Luton and South Bedfordshire is an urban environmental regeneration charity, working with partners in deprived neighbourhoods to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses. Groundwork's purpose is "to build sustainable communities through joint environmental action". This is achieved by involving residents, schools, businesses, volunteers and other local organisations in practical projects that improve their quality of life, bring about local neighbourhood regeneration and lay the foundations for sustainable development. They believe a "sustainable community" is one which is vibrant, healthy and where individuals and enterprises prosper.

Name: Matt Sutcliffe
 Address: Partnership House, 6 Cardiff Road, Luton, LU1 1PP
 Comms: T: 01582 480770
 E: luton&southbedfordshire@groundwork.org.uk,
 W: www.groundwork.org.uk/lutonandsouthbedfordshire

Last Updated: 24/09/2007

Icknield Way Association

The Icknield Way Association promotes the use of a route for walkers through six counties, linking the Ridgeway Trail and the Peddars Way Trail, following the chalk ridge and using

footpaths, bridleways and occasionally roads. The route is maintained with the help of local councils but monitored by voluntary 'wardens'. The Icknield Way Association sells a guide book for walkers and an accommodation list is available via the website. New supporters are always welcome. Annual walks are arranged in different locations along the way.

Name: Chris James
Address: 56 Back Street, Ashwell, Baldock,
Hertfordshire, SG7 5PE
Comms: T: 01462 742684
W: www.icknieldwaypath.co.uk

Last Updated: 14/06/2006

Leighton-Linslade Opposes Unsustainable Development (LOUD)

The LOUD Action Group was formed in September 2006 when the media publicised developer's plans to build 6,000 dwellings on 850 acres of Green Belt to the east of Leighton Buzzard. Their core purpose is to oppose the Government strategy to construct 43,000 dwellings in South Bedfordshire by 2031, 26,300 of which are to be built by 2021, and they act for the electorate of Leighton Linslade and the surrounding villages who share their concerns.

A Petition to Parliament, can be signed on their website and they encourage the electorate to write letters of opposition to **Hazel Blears MP** (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government), Andrew Selous MP and local and district councillors.

Name: Ann Gates
Address: 43 Hydrus Drive, Leighton Buzzard,
LU7 3UL
Comms: T: 01525 375498
E: ann@gates.wanadoo.co.uk
W: www.lb-loud.co.uk

Last Updated: 29/09/2007

National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens - Beds and Herts

Local branch of a national charity which aims to conserve Britain's rich inheritance of garden plants, and the knowledge that goes with them.

The hold evening lectures on gardening topics at Verulamium Musium in St Albans, social events, garden and nursery visits and plant sales. Members receive a local newsletter and the journal "Plant Heritage". The major plant sale is held in April at Capel Manor and they hold eight National Collections locally and are keen to encourage more. Membership is open to everyone and a subscription costs £20 which gives access to all local groups as well as the National Organisation.

Address: 104 Marshalswick Lane, St Albans,
Hertfordshire, AL1 4XE
Comms: T: 01727 869437
E: p.d.morgan@ntlworld.com

Last Updated: 17/01/2006

P3 Group - Leighton Linslade

Sponsored by Bedfordshire County Council they maintain and develop footpaths to give the maximum number of people access to the countryside. Membership is composed of representatives of organisations within the boundaries of Leighton-Linslade with an interest in pedestrian access to footpaths and open spaces.

Address: 11 Lomond Drive, Leighton Buzzard,
LU7 7XH

Last Updated: 02/05/2007

Ramblers Association - Bedfordshire Branch

The Bedfordshire branch of the Ramblers' Association organises a wide range of walks and promotes improved access to the countryside. They also hold information on the local Ramblers Associations in the county.

Address: 59 Knaves Hill, Linslade, LU7 7SE
Comms: T: 01525 385327
W: www.ramblers.org.uk

Last Updated: 17/07/2007

Ramblers Association - Leighton Buzzard

The Leighton Buzzard branch of the Ramblers Association was established in 1985 and has grown steadily since then. Situated on the western edge of Bedfordshire adjoining Buckinghamshire, Leighton Buzzard is a good

centre for walking with gently undulating countryside, towpaths of the Grand Union canal and wooded areas, additionally a national trail, the Greensand Ridge starts in Leighton Buzzard. Volunteers from the group maintain an active watch over the condition of local paths and assist in their maintenance, they also monitor development applications and represent the views of walkers at enquiries.

Address: 57 The Paddocks, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 2SX
Comms: T: 01525 372525
W: www.ramblers.org.uk

Last Updated: 25/09/2007

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - Luton and South Bedfordshire

Provide bird watching outings and indoor meetings to members and non-members of the RSPB. Information on birds and conservation issues are given to members of the public, through events held throughout the year. Meetings are every second Wednesday each month at 7.15pm Houghton Regis Social Centre.

Address: 120 Common Road, Kensworth, unstable, LU6 3RG
Comms: T: 01582 873268, W: www.rspb.org.uk

Last Updated: 09/01/2006

South Bedfordshire Association of National Trust Members

Aims to foster interest in the National Trust and its work in preserving Britain's heritage. They provide a local focus for National Trust members with regular meetings throughout the year, outings and social events. Talks are held monthly from September to April.

Address: 66 Moor End, Edlesborough, Dunstable, LU6 2HN
Comms: T: 01525 222758

Last Updated: 29/01/2007

TIDY - Dunstable

A local environment pressure group set up by the Town Council and supported by Town and District Councils which draws attention to any concerns on the state of the environment. They encourage and support campaigns to keep the town clean.

Name: J Hunt
Address: 35 Totternhoe Road, Dunstable, U6 2AF

Comms: T: 01582 602266

Last Updated: 18/09/2007

Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough exists to conserve and promote the natural environment for the benefit of wildlife, people and future generations. In Bedfordshire they manage 26 nature reserves. They provide an education service at Randalls Farm in Stewartby and at Priory Country Park in Bedford. There are several local groups within Bedfordshire giving evening talks and guided walks.

Name: Kathryn Ingall
Address: Visitor Centre, Priory Country Park, Barkers Lane, Bedford, MK41 9SH

Comms: T: 01234 364213
F: 01234 328520
E: bedfordshire@wildlifebcnp.org
W: www.wildlifebcnp.org

Last Updated: 15/09/2007

Voluntary and Community Action

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West Street
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www.action-centralbeds.org.uk**

How we can help!

Voluntary and Community Action exists to provide help and support to the hundreds of voluntary organisations and community groups selflessly working to improve lives in their own communities and beyond.

We can offer help in a variety of ways:

- Funding Advice
- Development
- Training
- Information
- Volunteering
- Partnerships

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