

Ledbury Naturalists Field Club
 Winter Meetings Programme 2017-18

Venue: Burgage Hall at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.00 pm for those who want to chat and help put out seats)

Date	Title
2017	
14 October 14.00	<p>Last Field trip for 2017</p> <p>Moccas Park This is one of the largest and most diverse examples of wood pasture remaining in Britain. The ancient trees host a large variety of epiphytic plants. More than 200 species of lichen have been recorded and a wide range of fungi grow in the forest and grassland, some very rare. It is home to rare insects, at least 13 species of bat, and other mammals including polecat, brown hare, hedgehog and a specially protected subspecies of badger. There is also a managed herd of fallow deer.”</p> <p>Location: Take A465, Abergavenny road. After 2 miles turn right on the B4348 signposted Hay-on-Wye. After a further 2 miles, at Clehonger, carry straight on, on what is now the B4352. Go through Madley, Tyberton and Blakemere, pausing in the last to admire a fine pollard Black Poplar on the village green by the church on a sharp right bend. 1 mile after Blakemere you will enter Moccas village. Carry on past War Memorial at minor crossroads after a further ½ mile you will see the park on your left. Opposite the main gate to the park is a white house (Park Lodge) on your right. Turn right here over a cattle grid and park on the grass behind the lodge.</p> <p>We will have a brief orientation by the Warden and then be left to wander at will. We hope this will be our fungus foray too. No dogs.</p>
20 October	<p>Jay Abrahams will open our winter season with an illustrated talk on: <i>Wetland Ecosystem Treatment.</i> Sounds intriguing doesn't it? Jay will show how wastewater can be processed in an environmentally sensitive way that is both energy efficient and encourages retention of CO₂, with the creation of wildlife habitats. Jay has offered to show us some of his local projects among which is the Buddhist Centre in Coddington. This will form part of next summer's field programme. So come along and get the story before the visit. Jay is an excellent speaker.</p>
17 November	<p>Members slide show.</p> <p>Moved to a new slot to allow for more contributions and a more relaxed evening of viewing. We will have a compilation of slides from the field trip to Dorset, our regular field trips, and the summer survey at Dales Hall, among others. Please contribute, large or small.</p>

2017	
08 December	Members evening/Social event/AGM Now in its third year we will be gathering once again for our pre-Christmas party with entertainment provided by our Chairman. Don't miss it.
2018	
19 January	Charles Watkins will present an illustrated talk on: <i>Understanding Ancient Trees</i> The talk explains the ways that ancient trees have been studied, described and understood. It focuses on the ways that old trees have been drawn by artists and studied by naturalists, and shows how landscape art and old photographs can provide valuable information for modern naturalists and conservationists. Bring along your old tree photographs.
16 February	Andrew Stringer will present an illustrated talk on: <i>Should pine martens be reintroduced to the Forest of Dean and lower Wye Valley</i> . Pine martens are a tree-climbing mustelid currently restricted to Scotland and central Wales. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, and The Vincent Wildlife Trust have recently conducted a study on the feasibility of reintroducing pine martens to the Forest of Dean and lower Wye Valley. The results of the feasibility study are presented here. It looked into all aspects of pine marten biology, how they can affect local ecosystems, and the impacts and opportunities they may provide for people living alongside them.
16 March	Peta Sams of the <i>Shropshire Swift Group</i> will give an illustrated talk on: <i>Our not so Common Swifts</i> Peta's talk will cover the life cycle of swifts, the problems that they face and what we can do to help. It is a bonus at the end of the talk if someone then feels inspired to start taking more of an interest in their town's swifts and surveying what they have. Do you have swifts nesting around you home? Come along and tell all.
13 April	Malcolm Penny will present a public talk on: <i>Tales of the Undirected</i> . Malcolm worked on the Anglia TV <i>Survival</i> programmes. Twenty five years making wildlife films around the world, travelling with intrepid camera teams in the untamed wilderness. Why do we never see pictures of empty waterholes? Malcolm has plenty of anecdotes to go with his considerable field experience. It should be a fun night. Bring your friends and neighbours for this fund-raiser.