

Ledbury Naturalists' Field Club

Winter Programme 2021-22

All meetings are held in the Burgage Hall, Church Lane, Ledbury on the third Friday of the month. Doors open at 7.00 pm and the meeting begins at 7.30 pm. Note that COVID-related precautions will be in place for all meetings.

2021

15 October

Title *Malvern Hills Lost Fritillaries Project*

Speaker Mel Mason vice-chair, West Malvern Butterfly Club

Summary Why are butterflies and moths so important, and what has happened to our butterflies over the past 150 years? Is local conservation working if the Malvern Grayling *Hipparchia semele* is on the edge of extinction, and is it arrogant to believe we can successfully reintroduce the Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne*, the second most at-risk butterfly species in the UK, back on to the Malverns? The talk includes many images and short videos illustrating the behaviour of butterflies, reactive and proactive habitat management, and an insight into the difficulties of breeding caterpillars amongst so many elusive predators.

Host Michael Bradley

19 November

Title *Global warming, 25 years on*

Speaker James Boyd, retired lecturer, Merrist Wood College

Summary James Boyd will present an overview of climate change and explore the developments in our understanding of global heating since he taught on the subject 25 years ago. At times the likely consequences can seem bleak and overwhelming. James hopes to stimulate discussion about a wide range of practical measures we, as individuals, can easily take to help mitigate these consequences.

Host Alan Pike

10 December

AGM & Entertainment

Summary Our AGMs are models of brevity allowing more time for eating and drinking. We will ask, in due course, for food and drink contributions.

21 January

Members evening

This is your opportunity to show your latest images. We will showcase a selection of summer visits, and then move on to members' slides. Please reserve your place to show slides/videos with Janet Parry (janet@jobeys.plus.com or tel. 01531 640640).

18 February

Title *Hidden Herefordshire: discovering its wildlife and wild places*

Speaker Tim Kaye, Project Officer and Director of CLaN CIC

Summary Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) and Cultivating Learning and Nature CIC were awarded a 98K grant to encourage more people to get outside and record wildlife. This talk focuses on the work done to date, what exciting things people have found and what more is to be achieved. As a two year programme it has a lot to get through - engaging communities who until now had little contact with biological recording, skilling people up so they can be confident to help others and building a new website for the HBRC. We hope our findings will illuminate new species in Herefordshire and give us a good understanding of others.

Host Nigel Hand

18 March

Title *Herefordshire meadows*

Speakers Rory Johnson

Summary We will give more details later

Host Janet Parry

15 April Public Lecture

Title *Beavers in the Forest of Dean*

Speakers Kate Wollen & Rebecca Wilson

Summary Beavers are nature's eco-system engineers – no other animal except humans has such an impact on the landscape around them. They create wonderful aquatic habitats that support so much wildlife and 'slow the flow' of water so helping to both reduce flooding and also retain water in times of drought. Forestry England took the decision to trial beavers as a way to restore the biodiversity to Greathough Brook in the Forest of Dean and to see if they helped to slow the water flowing out of the site, especially in times of high

rainfall. In 2018, after 2 years of planning, a pair of beavers were introduced to the brook within a 7 hectare fenced enclosure.

Kate and Rebecca have had the honour of working with the beavers since the beginning and have had many ups, occasional downs and much amusement.

This is the story so far.

Host Eden Tanner

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