

External

DIRECTORY OF SPEAKERS AND WALK LEADERS

2019 - 2021



Photograph by Barry Green

Welcome to the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Directory of Speakers and Walk Leaders 2019 - 21

This directory was originally designed for the use of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Local Group committees for booking talks and walks for their programme of event but speakers listed in this version are happy for other groups and organisations to contact them as well.

All details are correct to the best of our knowledge as at November 2019. It is intended that the directory will be updated annually. If you hear of any changes or new speakers please contact the Trust enquiries@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org

Some of the speakers/leaders on the list ask only for their travel expenses and a donation to either Worcestershire Wildlife Trust or another wildlife charity. The Trust is very grateful to all the speakers/leaders who generously give up their free time to help us protect wildlife across the county.

For speakers who ask for a fee, this is indicated in the particulars provided for each person.

If you wish to contact a speaker or walk leader, please do so directly by using the contact details given. It is helpful to the speakers/leaders if you could send written confirmation of the talk/walk, what equipment you are supplying/expecting them to bring and clear directions for finding the venue. If a speaker is booked well in advance, you may also like to give them a reminder letter or phone call to confirm they are still able to attend.

PLEASE NOTE: The speakers listed in this directory are not necessarily part of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and do not necessarily represent the views of the Trust.

The directory is available to download from www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/group-visits-talks. If you would like to receive a copy of this directory by email please contact enquiries@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org, stating the group or organisation you represent.

If you have any queries, comments or suggestions regarding the directory, please contact:

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
Lower Smite Farm, Smite Hill, Hindlip, Worcester WR3 8SZ

Tel: 01905 754919

Email: enquiries@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org

Website: www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

Imagine a Worcestershire rich in wildlife, brimming with wildflowers and abundant with birdsong. Picture our county where the sounds and sights of our natural world inspire our children. Think of a country where wildlife can move safely and freely – and we can easily access the countryside.

From restoration to re-creation, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is working towards a county where wildlife flourishes in our countryside, towns and villages. With our local knowledge and expertise our staff and volunteers are constantly working to protect habitats and species across the county.

We care for over 75 nature reserves – woods and heaths, pools and marshes, and meadows of international importance. Working with landowners, local authorities, organisations, communities and individuals we advise how to protect and create places for our wildlife.

With support from our members we're making a difference. With your help we can achieve much more.

By joining Worcestershire Wildlife Trust you'll become part of an influential and growing conservation network of 47 Trusts and over 800,000 members across the UK.

Membership Benefits

- Enjoy over 70 nature reserves from Chance Wood in the north to Broadway Gravel Pit in the south.
- 3 magazines a year featuring local and national wildlife news
- Membership of your Local Group with talks, walks and social events
- Information on events, open days, walks, courses and volunteering opportunities
- Playing your part in securing the future of habitats and species in your local area



Wildlife Watch

Help us inspire your children and grandchildren by becoming Wildlife Watch members! Our junior club members receive a welcome pack, membership card, badge and pocket guide. With online resources, magazines, posters and competitions there's something for all ages.

Join online today or call us on 01905 754919

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

T denotes a talk or other indoor event, W a walk or outdoor meeting/event/trip.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Talks, Guided Walks and Wildlife Activities

ALLEN, Paul

Wyre Forest District Council, Green Street, Kidderminster,
Worcestershire DY10 1HA

Tel: 01562 732928

E-mail: paul.allen@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

When can be contacted: leave a message on answerphone.

- T** Talks with Powerpoint or slides presentation
Wildlife and nature reserves of the Wyre Forest district [he would much prefer to give the talk at the same time as a walk on the reserve. He prefers to talk to local groups within the WFDC area].
- W** Guided walks on Wyre Forest district nature reserves.

Note: the talk and walks are only available if the Ranger Service programme allows.

Fee: no charge.
Equipment required: screen or white wall.
Distance will travel: Wyre Forest district
Booking notice required: as much as possible.

Biographical info: he is a Countryside Officer for the Wyre Forest District Council.

BETTS, Richard and Lesley

73 Windermere Way, Stourport on Severn, Worcs
DY13 8JR

Tel.: 01299 878840

E-mail Lesley.betts@btinternet.com

When can be contacted: daytime, use answerphone.

- T** Audiovisual and digital presentations (call to check which presentations are digital as these are gradually being changed)
- The living countryside [music: Vivaldi, Mozart, Delibes; duration 42 minutes].
 - Portmeirion [music: Vangelis; duration 15 minutes].
 - Wordsworth country [music: Schubert; duration 12 minutes].
 - These are the days of our lives [music: Queen; duration 2 minutes].
 - Cathedral portraits [music: Bach, Handel].
 - The lost gardens of Heligan [music: Debussy; duration 14 minutes].
 - Cornish cameo [music: Odyssey; duration 8 minutes].
 - Autumn [music: Fauré Pavane; duration 8 minutes].
 - Witley Court [music: Grieg; duration 21 minutes].
 - Gardens of Cornwall [music: Beethoven; duration 30 minutes].
 - Gardens and cellars of Witley Court [music: Barber, Grieg, Mahler, Brahms; duration: 30 minutes].
 - How to take better photographs [duration 60 minutes].

Note: September to April only (not December), evenings only.

Fee: £40 plus 40p/mile travel expenses.
Equipment required: a large table.

Distance will travel: within a 40 mile radius of Stourport.(approx.)
Booking notice required: any time.

Biographical info: they have been general photographers for over 30 years, with a keen interest in wildlife photography.

BODNAR, Dr S. 35 Post Office Road, Baddesley Ensor, Warwickshire
CV9 2DD

Tel.: 07429 209549 E-mail: stefan.bodnar01@googlemail.com

When can be contacted: daytime preferably.

Distance will travel: Midlands Counties
Booking notice required: as much as possible, minimum 1 month.

Biographical info: a professional ecologist for over 30 years, he has a wide experience of all aspects of wildlife, incl. abroad. He has studied dormice for 25 years, barn owls for 30 years, is an unrestricted BTO 'A' ringer and trainer, and holds or has held most UK protected species licences. Founder of the NGO 'People for Peregrines'.

BRADLEY, Chris 'Abberley View', Callow Hill, Rock, Nr Kidderminster,
Worcestershire DY14 9XD

Tel.: 01299 266103 or 01299 404122

When can be contacted: evenings.

T Talks with slides

- The realm of the fallow buck [the deer of the Wyre Forest].
- The land of the longhaired fallow [the deer of Mortimer Forest].
- Deer Antlers

Fees: £40 plus cost of fuel.
Equipment required: screen if available.
Distance will travel: 20 miles maximum each way (approx)
Booking notice required: 1 month minimum.

Biographical info: has spent 50 years studying the deer of the Wyre Forest. He is a member of the Wyre Forest Society, WWT, etc.

BRIGGS, Jonathan 46 Arrowsmith Drive, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2QR

Tel : 01453 791135 / 07789 684585 E- mail: enquiries@mistletoe.org.uk
Website: www.mistletoe.org.uk / www.jonathanbriggs.co.uk

When can be contacted: any time

T Talks – mainly based on computer slide presentations

- Mistletoe-themed talks tailored to group's interests, or kept more generic.
- Mistletoe Miscellany (popular) covers a little of everything typically including: What is Mistletoe?, Mistletoes Worldwide, Traditions and Legends (Norse, Greek, Druidic, Christian, Modern), Habitats and Hosts, Parasitic biology, UK distribution, Conservation

and Biodiversity value, Mistletoe Management, Mistletoe Medicines, Art Nouveau, Harvest and Trade, and Growing Your Own.

- W** • Mistletoe-themed walks in areas with mistletoe (so mainly Worcs, Herefordshire, Gloucs & Somerset) discussing biology, management, planting and species interactions with both host tree and associated birds and insects. Locations are usually orchard-based to ensure east access to mistletoe.

Walks are best timed for late February-March when mistletoe is flowering and last year's berries are ripest. Walk fees vary according to location and amount of preparation required.

Fees: £60 - £100 for small charitable groups, depending on group, plus mileage at £0.30
Distance will travel: maximum 120 miles round trip from GL10 2QR for small groups.
Equipment needed: table for display materials etc.
Booking notice required: Ideally at least 6 months. Most groups look for a date in the run up to Christmas, from late October onwards. New Year and early spring (to the end of March) fit well too – particularly for groups interested in planting mistletoe; as that is when mistletoe seeds should be planted.

Biographical info: Botanist and Industrial Archaeologist with 30 years interest and experience in Mistletoe issues alongside 20+ years working as a nature conservation advisor/promoter within British Waterways. Independent environmental consultant since 2006 working on a variety of issues including mistletoe. Mistletoe projects include conception and coordination of the 1990's National Mistletoe Survey (BSBI and Plantlife), mistletoe conservation work across Greater London, mistletoe marketing and promotion nationally, mistletoe-dependent insects and mistletoe management in neglected orchards.

BROOKES, Martin

Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre, Station Road, Beckford, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 7AN

Tel.:01386 882288

E-mail: martin@valewildlife.org.uk

Website: www.valewildlife.org.uk

When can be contacted:

Friday to Tuesday incl, 8 am to 5 pm.

T Talk + Powerpoint presentation

- Work of Vale Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre
- [Duration 50 to 60 min plus questions]

Fee: £50. Travel charge of 45p/ mile on any mileage **over 30 in total.**
Equipment required: small table for laptop and projector.
Distance will travel: 40 miles.
Booking notice required: at least 1 month.

Course: VWH also offers a hedgehog first aid and rehabilitation course (in association with the BHPS) on site at Beckford. For more details e-mail caroline@valewildlife.org.uk

BROWN, David

Jackson's Lawn, Charlecote, nr Warwick CV35 9EW

Tel.: 01789 840295

E-mail: davidcgbrown@yahoo.co.uk

When can be contacted: most days/evenings.

T Talks with slides:

- Butterflies
- Moths

[All aspects of the above – survival methods including camouflage and warning colours, habitats, ecology of each species and local and national aspects of each species.]

W Walks/outdoor meetings:

- Butterfly/day-flying moths walks.
- Moth trapping/sugaring.
- Moth identification workshops and fieldwork [moth traps and equipment supplied].

Fees: £60 per hour incl. travel.

Equipment required: screen.

Distance will travel: any distance.

Booking notice required: 2 weeks in winter months but generally plans a year in advance

Biographical info: former school teacher with 36 years' experience lecturing on lepidoptera for Birmingham and Warwick Universities plus field work. 20 years experience in conducting residential courses for the Adult Residential Colleges Association and Field Studies Council as well as at various universities and centres all over Great Britain. He is the Moth Conservation Officer for Warwickshire and has been the County Moth Recorder since 1971. Author of *The Larger Moths of Warwickshire* and a regular contributor to entomological journals *Atropos* and *The Entomologist's Record*.

BUTLER, Ian

10 Hunters Close, Bilson, West Midlands. WV14 7BN

Tel : 07709 492484

E:mail : ian@ianbutlerphotography.co.uk

Website: ianbutlerphotography.co.uk

When can be contacted: anytime – phone and leave message or e-mail.

T Digital presentation – approx 90mins

- Walking the Malvern Hills in search of Wildlife
- Sun, Sea and Sandpipers
- Improving your Wildlife Photography
- Wildlife through the lens
- The Jewels and hidden Gems of Costa Rica

Fee: £90 plus 30p per mile return mileage from WV14 7BN

Equipment required: stand/table for projector, projector screen.

Booking notice: as much as possible but short notice as well.:

Biographical info: Ian enjoys sharing his passion and enthusiasm on natural history and photography through visual presentations. Talks last for approximately 90mins, although the duration can be altered to cater for your needs. Ian can talk to any size group and adapt the talk for all levels of interest and expertise.

BUTLER , Roger Hancock's Yard, Market Square, Kineton, Warwickshire, CV35 0LP

Tel: 01926 641301 E-mail: roger522@btinternet.com

When can be contacted: most days and evenings or by e-mail.

Talks with slides or digital images:

A week on St Kilda –Scotland's remote World Heritage Site with 120,000 gannets, 250,000 puffins and a unique history and landscape – plus the highest sea cliffs in Europe.

Treasure Islands -journeys to some of the lesser-known Hebridean islands, such as Colonsay, Canna, Muck and Ulva, with dramatic landscapes, fascinating wildlife and interesting history.

Penguins and Puyas – wild travelsthrough South America with wildlife, landscapes and people; jungle, volcanoes and coast.

The Monarchs of Mexico–colourful travels in search of the amazing Monarch butterflies: millions overwinter in the high mountains of Mexico's Sierra Madre. The talk also includes eye-catching scenery and interesting history.

In Patagonia – travels in wildest Chile, with fjords and glaciers; mountains and wildlife; the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park and the penguin colonies

In the high Himalayas – a five-week journey through the Annapurna region of Nepal with spectacular scenery.

In the footsteps of the Dalai Lama - on foot through the little-known mountains of Himachal Pradesh in north-west India.

Across the roof of the world – travels on the ancient Silk Road with mountains, deserts, oases and an extraordinary range of people and cultures.

Through wildest Russia – this talk describes two journeys into the wild and undiscovered mountains of the Caucasus and the Pamirs.

The magic of Morocco - travels in the wild Atlas Mountains and out to the edge of the Sahara, including the deep Todra gorge and the ascent of 13,500 foot Mount M'goun.

Canal history and heritage – there's more to our canals than just boats and water! Learn about unusual architecture, amazing engineering and lots of quirky features.

Wild Walks – a collection of adventurous walks, with glorious photography, from across the UK - in all seasons and all weathers and as featured in monthly walking magazines.

Several other talks also available – please contact for details

Fees: £80 plus travel (negotiable, depending on distance)

Equipment required: none

Booking notice required: none, can stand in at short notice

Biographical info: Experienced speaker who gives illustrated talks throughout the UK to a wide range of groups and societies. Freelance consultant, writer and photographer covering all aspects of countryside, natural history and heritage - contributes to a range of monthly magazines.

Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society and Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute; member of Butterfly Conservation, RSPB and Plantlife

CHURCH, Terry

6, Wharfedale Close, Wall Heath, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 9AZ

Tel.: 01384 292170
07974 428261

E-mail: terrychurch@btclick.com

When can be contacted: any time.

T Talks: [note: not illustrated, i.e. no slides].

- “You couldn’t make it up” – a look at stories that made the news.
- “Village Memories” reminiscences of growing up in a village on the edge of the Black Country in the 195’s].
- 1942 – “A Vintage Year” a look at how life has changed in the last 70 years]
- Radio and television in the 50’s and 60’s –entertainment as we knew it

(DETAILS OF OTHER TALKS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

Fee: £40 plus travel expenses of 15p per mile.
 Equipment required: none.
 Distance will travel: 40 miles.
 Booking notice required: none; will stand in at short notice, even same day.

Biographical info: has published four books on life in the village of Wall Heath. He is a humorous and entertaining speaker and has many years’ experience of talking to a wide range of organizations; having given over 130 talks in Worcestershire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands.

**CONWAY, Wendy
EFIAP/g. DPAGB**

The Oaks, Parkend Walk, Coalway, Gloucestershire GL16 7JR

Tel: 01594 832956

E-mail: wendy@terry-wall.com

Website: www.terry-wall.com

When can be contacted: 10 am to 8 pm.

T Talks with slides or digitally projected images

- ZIMANGA ! Something amazing. On safari in South Africa !
- FROM THE FURNACE TO FREEZER: YELLOWSTONE IN THE GRIP OF WINTER
- Still waiting for the light ! [UK wildlife, flowers and fungi].
- Two legged, four legged, furry and feathered [wildlife in Yellowstone and Florida, USA].
- Salud, dinero y amor [Texas and Arizona: birds, mammals and landscapes].
- Walk on the wildside [on safari in Kenya].
- Mizaru, lwazaru, Kikazaru – Japanese wildlife!

Fee: £60 plus petrol expenses.
 Equipment required: screen and tables for display of cards and prints for sale.
 Distance will travel: Up to 100 miles return (further by arrangement)
 Booking notice required: any – can also stand in at short notice.

Biographical info: award-winning freelance wildlife photographer. Gives travelogue-style talks encompassing wildlife, flowers, landscapes and people, both UK and overseas.

COOK, Neil Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 7EA

Tel.: 01527 821014 E-mail: neil.cook@nationaltrust.org.uk

When can be contacted: 8 am to 4 pm.

T Talk with power point slides

- The re-creation of the gardens at Hanbury Hall [takes a journey through the re-creation of the gardens from 1993 to today. The journey includes snippets of the Vernon family's history at Hanbury Hall and the Park surrounding it. The talk concludes with a quick trip over to a property in Holland.

Fee: £50 including travel.

Equipment required: Small table to put laptop & computer on. Screen if possible but can bring own if not.

Distance will travel: 40 miles

Booking notice required: three months.

Biographical info: Head Gardener at Hanbury Hall (National Trust) since 1988.

CRAWLEY, Derek 155a Eccleshall Road, Stafford ST16 1PD

Tel.: 0796 0330615 E-mail: derekcrawley@btinternet.com

Website: staffordshiremammalgroup.org

When can be contacted: any time.

T Talks with slides or digital presentation:

- Mammals of Staffordshire.
- Talks on individual mammal species – to be discussed

W Walks:

- Mammal tracks, trails, signs

Fees: £50 – part donation to Staffordshire Mammal Group.

Equipment required: none.

Distance will travel: any.

Booking notice required: any.

Biographical info: Chairman of Staffordshire Mammal Group, mammal recorder.

CSERVENKA, Ken 19 Overhill Road, Stratton, Cirencester, Gloucs GL7 2LG

Tel : 01285 656480 E-mail : ken.cservenka@sky.com

T Talk with slides

- Wildlife of Exmoor – a general wildlife talk about Exmoor wildlife with strong emphasis on the herd of the wild Red Deer
- Collecting Butterflies with a camera – a talk featuring slides of most of the butterfly species found in the British Isles
- An Australian Wildlife Adventure – a holiday of a lifetime including photography of as much wildlife as possible. Travelling via Singapore, Port Douglas followed by the red centre including Ayers Rock, Kings Canyon and Alice Springs. Then on to Sydney

including the Blue Mountains and finally the area around Melbourne before returning home via Hong Kong. Wildlife contents mostly consists of the birds with a few Kangaroo, reptiles and plants.

Fee: £45 plus approx fuel cost for return journey from home to the venue.
Equipment required: Larger screen if possible (own screen only measures 50x50)

Biographical info: A keen amateur naturalist. Enthusiastic about wildlife and conservation issues from about 6 years old when first watched a Small White Butterfly emerge from its chrysalis. Butterflies have been a specialist interest for many years, but also has a keen fascination for the Red Deer herd on Exmoor. Since moving to the Cotswolds in 1971 has become a more general naturalist with birdwatching and moth trapping being brought to the fore. Photography has also played a big part from early days when given his first camera - a Kodak Brownie 44A taking 12 exposures on 127 format film!

**DAVIS, Adrian,
MIBOL, MSc, MIEEM**

Wildoutdoors Ltd, Birnam Guest House, 4 Murthly Tce,
Birnam, Perthshire PH8 0BG

Tel 07761 673231

E-mail : wildoutdoorscotland@gmail.com

Website: www.wildoutdoors.info

When can be contacted: most times

T Talks

- Mammals- Scottish Wildcats, pine martens, otters, red squirrels & badgers.
- Peatlands and upland habitats – both Scottish and elsewhere.
- Nepal

Fee: no charge for talks but small contribution towards accommodation and travel costs welcome. (often does a UK tour giving talks during the winter.)

Biographical info : Adrian is an ecologist and wildlife expert, having worked as a wildlife guide and leader for many years all over Scotland. He has over 20yrs experience in the environmental field, in which time he has worked as an ecological consultant and Area Officer with Scottish Natural Heritage, Scotland's governing body on nature & landscapes. In last few years completed a three year study on Scottish wildcats, published by SNH in 2010. Currently undertaking further research as part of the Wildcat Haven project. Active member of the Scottish Wildlife Trust; giving talks on Scottish wildlife and plants including pine martens.

Travelled extensively and able to offer talks on the wildlife of a number of foreign countries, including Nepal where he has spent 3 weeks each November for the past few years.

**DAVIS, Mrs. Celia,
BSc. (Agric) NDB**

The Pines, Hodgetts Lane, Berkswell, Coventry CV7 7DG

Tel.: 01676 533252

E-mail: celia.davis1@btinternet.com
(Initial contact by e mail preferred)

When can be contacted: Most times.

T Talks with digital presentation:

- Bees and beekeeping [introduction to beekeeping showing the relationship between beekeeping and the life of the honeybee].
- Bees, plants and the environment [interactions between bees and flowering plants,

and the importance of these to the environment as a whole].

- Insects in the garden [some of the insects that live in the garden, their life-cycles and ecology. (Note - includes very few butterflies, moths or bees)].
- The sex life of plants [the structure and function of flowers in close-up].
- The wild bees and wasps [the natural history of the wild solitary and social bees and wasps].
- The world of butterflies and moths [an introduction to some of our native butterflies and moths, and their natural history].

Fee: £40 plus travel expenses (open to discussion)
Equipment required: Screen plus table for projector & laptop.
Distance will travel: about 40 miles.
Booking notice required: as much as possible.

Biographical info: formerly a biology teacher, she has had a life-long interest in insects. Has been a beekeeper for 38 years and has written 2 books on the biology and behaviour of the honey bee. Honorary Life Vice-President, formerly Secretary, of Warwickshire Beekeepers.

DRURY, Howard D.H.E (Hons) 8 Bagnell Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B13 0SJ

Tel : 0121 443 3212 E-mail : howard@thedrurys.com
Website: www.thedrurys.com

T Large screen PowerPoint & digital video presentations with pa system when needed

- The wildlife garden –Planning and Maintaining
- Men who inspired My Gardening
- Why Trees?
- Plants for free
- Organic or Not?
- Berried Treasures
- Growing Fruit in the 21st Century
- Any Colour but Green
- A Gardeners Question Time
- Gardening as we get older
- Encouraging birds into the garden
- Great Garden Quiz (lighthearted)–no real gardening knowledge needed

Over 140 fascinating and intriguing subjects all on www.thedrurys.com

Fees: £80 for up to 75 people, larger groups slightly more. (Plus expenses)

Equipment required: Close suitable parking. A 13 Amp socket!

Booking notice: as much as possible but able to help at short notice if free.

Biographical info : Horticultural broadcaster, speaker, lecturer, writer, advisor, consultant.
12 years presenting TV programmes. Runs gardening clubs. Leads garden holidays worldwide.

FARMER, Gary 9 Clent Avenue, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs B97 5HH
Tel.: 01527 542322 E-mail: garyla@outlook.com
When can be contacted: any time, use answer phone.

T: A variety of talks about Worcestershire wildlife, ranging from grasshoppers and other bugs, to general wildlife topics.

Fee: £40 +travel expenses.(Just travel expenses for WWT groups)

Equipment required: screen if available
Distance will travel: around 20 miles.
Booking notice required: 3 months, but can sometimes be available at short notice.

Biographical info: a volunteer for WWT and Worcestershire Recorders for many years.

FISHER, Graham, MBE Drovers Barn, Whitney-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR3 6EU
Tel : 01497 831358 / 07885 786826 E-mail: grahamfisher@me.com
When can be contacted: any time.

- T** Talks with slides and/or Powerpoint presentation:
- Various waterway-related talks.
 - Various talks on the Stourbridge glass industry, to include:
 - Jewels on the cut [an examination of the glass industry and other industries along the Stourbridge canal],
 - The history of the Portland Vase,
 - An overview of the new glass museum that replaces Broadfield House .

- W** Walks
- Guided/assisted walks/tours in a variety of waterside locations – to be negotiated.

Fee: around £100 (negotiable), travel up to 20 miles included
Equipment required: large screen and digital projector if available.
Distance will travel: within a 50 mile radius of Hay-on-Wye
Booking notice required: any time.

Biographical info : Graham Fisher is a writer and presenter. A devoted Black Country man, he is now located on the Welsh borders although he frequently returns to the area to pursue his passions as a waterways specialist with an interest in glass. He sits on the West Midlands Waterways Partnership and is a Trustee of both the British Glass Foundation and Chance Glass Heritage Trust. He is a former jury member for the International Festival of Glass Biennale.

He was invested for services to inland waterways in 2001 and in 2005 was voted by his peers as Waterways Personality of the Year, assuming the mantle from previous recipients that include John Craven OBE, David Suchet CBE and Timothy West CBE. His 'Jewels' trilogy of books comprising *Jewels on the Cut* (2010) *The 2012 Portland Vase Project* (2012) and *Whiskers on Kittens* is a unique examination of glass and inland waterways. Graham is 'the voice of the Black Country' in the podcast section of the West Midlands history site www.historywm.com

FORREST, Gordon

97, Crabtree Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B61 8PA.

Tel.: 07885 632964

Website: www.worcestershirowildlifetalks.co.uk

When can be contacted: day and evening.

T Talks with slides

- Photographic highlights of favorite WWT reserves.
- The wildlife of Chaddesley Woods.
- Upton Warren - Worcestershire's premier bird reserve.
- Badgers and their photography.
- Randan Meadows- Life among the anthills.(in and around the anthill meadows)
- The Nature of "set- aside "the benefits to local farm wildlife.

Note: the following 3 talks are shorter, each lasting about 40 minutes.

- Kingfishers
- Woodpeckers
- Worcestershire's reptiles

Also: he can show wide variety of RSPB colour/sound films - list obtainable from above address**W** Walks

- Guided walk looking at the wildlife of Chaddesley Woods.
- Guided walk around Longmore Farm, Chaddesley Corbett.

Fees: free to WWT local groups. Others £40, negotiable for smaller groups. Travel expenses to be added.

Equipment required: large table.

Distance will travel: anywhere.

Booking notice required: none. Will do indoor meeting stand-ins if available

NOTE : Will consider all forms of charity fund raising

Biographical info: works in the building trade. He has had a lifelong interest in nature/wildlife photography, and has written several books on Worcestershire wildlife, which include the photographs, experiences and general views of a wildlife photographer.

GREEN, Terry

7 Clattercut Lane, Rushock, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 0NW

Tel.: 01562 777411

E-mail: terryjgreen@btinternet.com

When can be contacted: any time – use answerphone.

T Talks with slides

- Hedgehogs [general lifestyle and biology; helping hedgehogs - ways we can make their lives easier and longer].
- Other hedgehog related topics or talks of specific interest can be given if there is a computer and digital projector available

Fee: donation to British Hedgehog Preservation Society plus travel expenses at 45p/mile.

Equipment required: Screen

Distance will travel: Anything considered at stated mileage rate

Booking notice required: 1 month minimum preferred

Biographical info: Retired animal care and wildlife lecturer at Pershore College. Was a hedgehog rescuer. Education volunteer with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

GROVE, Ashley

16 Lint Meadow, Wythall, Worcs B47 5PH

Tel : 07704 189835

E-mail : birdergrove@gmail.com

Website 1: <http://ashleygrovewildimages.co.uk>Website 2: <http://experiencenature.co.uk>Blog: <https://ashleysanologs.wordpress.com>www.experience-nature.co.uk

When can be contacted

Any time

T Digital presentation via Keynote (Mac equivalent of Powerpoint)

- Great British Birds
- Shetland to Scilly- birds of the British Isles
- A Beginners Guide to Birdwatching
- Lammergeiers of the Spanish Pyrenees
- Jewels of the Gambia
- Wonderful Winter Wildlife -NEW
- Trinidad and Tobago, Home of the Hummingbird - NEW

Fee:

£85 + 25p per mile from B47 postcode.

Equipment required :

a screen, projector stand/table, extension lead and a table for sales items.

Booking notice:

as much as possible (check his website for existing bookings)

Biographical info: Midlands based full time professional wildlife photographer and runs his own company, Experience Nature Ltd, leading tours for wildlife watchers and photographers. He has been busy on the lecture circuit since 2006, entertaining wildlife groups, U3A's and camera clubs etc, with his stunning portfolio of images taken in the UK and further afield. He is officially recommended by the RSPB and the Royal Horticultural Society and has visited and revisited well over 100 groups throughout the British Isles. Ashley's lectures are always well received, not only because of the quality of his photography, but for his engaging and informative delivery and amusing anecdotes. His infectious passion for all things wildlife clearly comes across in each talk, offering something for the novice and expert alike.

GULLIVER, Simon

149 Newlands Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2RL

Tel: 0121 444 1141 / 07875 328267 E-mail: simongulliver59@btinternet.com

When can be contacted: any time, but most likely to get me on the land line during the evening. Leave a message if no answer; better still e mail me.

T Talks including Powerpoint presentation

- Around the World in 80 Plants: Tales of foreign travel, trains and plants familiar and bizarre.
- Chinese Wilson - Birmingham's Plant Hunter: His adventures in China and other places at the turn of the 20th century and the plants he introduced to our gardens.
- The Oasis of Delight - Birmingham Botanical Gardens: The story of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, opened in 1832 and still an independent educational charity.
- The Secret Life of Trees: How trees work and how wonderful they are.
- Colour Through the Seasons: How to get 365 days of beauty out of your garden.
- Pruning Trees & Shrubs: How to prune for beauty, flower, fruit and health.
- Wildlife in the Garden: How to create a beautiful wildlife friendly plot.
- Roses
- The making of our Midland Landscape

- Talks on Specific Plant Groups: Easy Care, Acid Lovers etc.

Also, is there any other topic that you may like him to talk on? Just let him know!!

Fee: £80 plus £8 an hour travel time and 45p per mile to cover travel expenses from B30 2RL by shortest and quickest reasonable route.

Distance will travel: will travel any distance in Midlands.
 Equipment required: a screen or suitable wall and a normal height table somewhere towards the front centre of the room.
 He brings his PC and data projector.
 Booking notice required: as much as possible.

Biography: Simon is now Gardens Consultant for the National Trust North-West Region, responsible for all gardens and parks from the south Cheshire to the Scottish border. With a degree in Amenity Horticulture from Pershore College, Simon worked at the Royal Horticultural Society garden at Wisley for two years, looking after the National Plant Collections Scheme. After studying for a Masters degree in Plant Botany at Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, he went on to spend ten years at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, eventually becoming the Plant Collections Manager there. Simon has a particular interest in garden history, plant hunters, trees and the flora of New Zealand and Australia.

HALES, Mrs. Gillian The Paddocks, The Common, Chelmarsh, Salop WV16 6BG

Tel.: 01746 861271

When can be contacted: early morning or after 3 pm most days.

T Talks with slides

- Native owls [brings 7 to 10 live owls]. Explains what has happened to each one. Opportunity to hold an owl.

Fee: approx. £55 depending on distance.

Equipment required: 3 – 4 trestle tables.

Distance will travel: within 40- 50 mile radius

Booking notice required: 3 months

Biographical info: she has kept owls for 25 years.

HARRIGAN, Jan, MBE (Mrs) Walk Mills Farm, Wychbold, Nr Droitwich, Worcs WR9 0DH

Tel.: 07786 434793

Website: www.wychboldswanrescue.co.uk

When can be contacted: daytime.

T Talks with slides

- Concern For Swans [what they do. Brings small items to sell, e.g. badges, cards, pens]

Fee: £45 incl. travel.

Equipment required: just a darkened room.

Distance will travel: anywhere in Worcestershire.

Booking notice required: any time, depending on availability.

Biographical info: has been involved in swan rescue for more than 30 years and has given many talks about her experiences. -----

JOHNSON, Peter

108 Ironstone Road, Chase Terrace, Burntwood,
Staffordshire WS7 1LY

Tel: 01543 270509

When can be contacted: any time, use answer phone.

T Talks with slides

- Talks on travel with a wildlife bias on Africa, India and Nepal, St Kilda, Ecuador and the Galapagos, Peru, Costa Rica etc.
- Local butterflies and moths.

Fees: £40 plus travel expenses.
Equipment required: none.
Distance will travel: up to approx. 50 miles.
Booking notice required: any.

Biographical info: a retired college lecturer and a member of the RSPB, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Cannock Chase Task Force and Butterfly Conservation. He has an interest in wildlife photography.

KING, Christine

Pervin Cottage, Caynham, Nr. Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 3BP

Tel : 01584 876 819

T Talk:

- Flower Pressing- A Gardener's Hobby (including papermaking for mounting flowers)

Fee: £40 plus expenses
Equipment required: Table
Distance: Will travel 40-50miles.
Booking notice required: as much as possible

Biographical information: Recently retired primary school teacher, over 20 years experience of subject.

LANE, Mike

Tel: 0121 744 7988 / 07766 418013 E-mail: Mikelane@nature-photography.co.uk
Website: www.nature-photography.co.uk

T Talks with digital images

- A Lane in a Midlands Forest
- A Digital Lane
- A Digital Lane Returns
- A Lane in Brazil
- A Lane around the UK
- A Lane in Eastern Europe

Fees: negotiable
Distance will travel: anywhere
Booking notice required: none. Will do indoor meeting stand-ins if available.

Biographical information: A full time wildlife photographer specialising in birds and mammals. Although he gets to travel to foreign lands a great deal, his main love is British wildlife. Mike gets far more satisfaction photographing humble wrens and chaffinches than exotic parrots in distant rain forests.

LAWRENCE, Bob

Tel.: 07831 323577

E-mail: safari.farm@virgin.net

T Talks - PowerPoint presentations:

- “Behind the Scenes” at a wildlife park.
- Careers talk for those interested in wildlife related matters.
- “My Deer” 40yrs of looking after/managing deer

Fee: £100 all inclusive for presentations within 30 miles of Bewdley

Equipment required: screen or access to a light-coloured wall. Projector is useful but not essential.

Booking notice: as much as possible.

Biographical info: Retired in 2016 as Director of Wildlife at West Midland Safari Park having worked there since its inception in 1973. Continues to work in the zoo world all over Europe. (Has worked in 25 countries so far !) Recipient of a Royal Television Society Award, a national NIACE award, a university chancellor’s award for outstanding achievement and a first in BSc (Hons) Zoo Biology. Bob’s work has involved widespread travel working on conservation projects at home and abroad, working with internationally recognised veterinary teams and working with many conservation bodies. He has been appointed by the Secretary of State as a zoo inspector and also inspects zoos all over Europe. Has also undertaken conservation grazing around the county with Natural England and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust for almost 20years – as well as being a deer farmer himself!

LEACH, Michael (Dr)

Linden Cottage, Hazles Cross, Kingsley, Staffs. ST10 2ER

Tel.: 01538 755945

E-mail: wildmanleach@gmail.com

Website: www.michael-leach.co.uk

When can be contacted: any time.

T Talks with slides

- In the blink of an eye [photographs capturing high-speed action, revealing aspects of animal’s lives that are invisible without the use of his unique and highly specialised technology].
- Snow monkeys [the story of Michael’s time with a group of macaques in the Japanese Alps. Includes their survival techniques such as immersing themselves in hot pools.]
- Madagascar’s ghosts [explores lemur behaviour and their unique habitat].
- Who’s afraid of the big bad wolf [timber wolves in the Great Northern Forest – their complex social world, subtle behaviour and powerful family bonds. Talk unravels murky and misleading legend from fact.]
- In the steps of the ice bear [explores the life of the giant polar bears that roam the Arctic wilderness, the seals on which they depend and their turbulent relationships with humans, as well as their ancestors, the myths that surround them and their specialisation for the uncompromising environment of the North].
- Men of the forest [orang-utans in Borneo and Sumatra; Michael followed these solitary

animals into the challenging igapo forest when researching his book, and tells the story of one of the world's most elusive primates and of our hunger for the palm oil that threatens their world].

- It's a funny way to make a living - part 1 [humorous introduction to, and basics of, wildlife photography. Not technical. Highs and lows of the job, how to photograph timid animals, tricks of the trade].
- It's a funny way to make a living – part 2 [further confessions of a wildlife photographer, featuring advice on how to make a wild cat more menacing, working with hen harriers on a Scottish mountain, photographing in underground dens and building a motorway in your garden shed].
- Enchanted islands [the story of the Galapagos Islands].
- Beneath the dark canopy [using his experiences in Indonesia, the Amazon Basin, West Africa and Central America, Michael explains how a tropical rainforest works and shows some of the highly specialised animals that have evolved to live in this fragile and intricate environment].
- The children's eternal forest [Bosque Eterno de los Ninos, one of the largest wildlife reserves in Central America and home to howler monkeys, sloths, sabre-winged hummingbirds and yet undiscovered species, was saved by children around the world. The story of the forest and its salvation.]
- The natural history of Christmas [explains the origin in natural history of our Christmas customs].
- Faces in the mirror [after living with gorillas, orang-utans, bonobos and chimpanzees in the wild, Michael explores some of the apes' behaviour and the dangers that may destroy them].
- Poles apart [the Arctic and Antarctic – Michael reveals the fragile domains of polar bears, king penguins, snowy owls, elephant seals and reindeer from both ends of the earth].
- China's silver cat bears [the story of the discovery of the giant pandas in the remote bamboo forests of China's Sichuan province, and looks at their life and future].
- The complete owl [covers all resident British owls in folklore and fact, with details on hunting techniques etc. Includes high-speed photographs of owls in flight.]
- Owls of the world [Michael's adventures while working around the globe with some of the 133 species of owl].
- Animals behaving badly [surprising animal behaviour, including drunken monkeys, psychotic magpies, phobic ostriches and delinquent coots].
- In the midst of gorillas [living high in the forest with the mountain gorillas in Rwanda].

Fee:	by negotiation.
Equipment required:	large screen if possible.
Distance will travel:	anywhere.
Booking notice required:	none.

Biographical info: full-time wildlife photographer/author since 1977 and now one of Europe's top professionals. He has travelled to some of the wildest and most remote places on Earth. His photographs have been used in more than 800 books, appearing in over 60 countries. He has filmed TV documentaries for both the BBC and Independent Television. He is a frequent broadcaster and widely published author. Michael has written 24 books, translated into 11 languages, on subjects ranging from big cats and owls to great apes and bears. His illustrated articles have been used in a long list of magazines including Country Life, the Observer, Geographical and Amateur Photographer. His photographs have been used in every major wildlife and environmental magazine in Europe and the USA.

MARTIN, Graham (Professor)

Wagtails, Broadway Road, Aston Somerville, Broadway,
Worcestershire WR12 7JF

Tel: 01386 859253

E-mail: graham@worcestershirewildlifetrust.com
graham.martin8@btinternet.com

When can be contacted: e-mail for initial contact.

T Talk with Powerpoint presentation

- Through birds' eyes [an introduction to the vision and other sensory systems that guide the behaviour of birds; the overall message is that birds and humans share the planet but live in different worlds].
- The Work of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Fee: no charge, but travel expenses appreciated.

Equipment required: digital projector, projector stand, screen.

Distance will travel: all of Worcestershire.

Booking notice required: 3 months .

Biographical info: Council Member of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust for many years. Served as Chair of the Trust for 6 years. Currently vice-chair. Wide interests in Conservation. Emeritus Professor of Avian Sensory Science at the University of Birmingham. Has conducted research on a wide range of bird species including owls, flamingos, oilbirds, cormorants, albatrosses, skimmers, vultures, puffins and eagles. Recent research on why birds collide with power wires and wind turbines. Recent research on why diving birds are prone to being caught in gill nets.

MEDLOCK, John Longdon, Cradley, Malvern, WR13 5LQ

Tel 01886 880 590 E-mail john@themedlocks.co.uk

When can be contacted: any time

T Talks with slides and video

Borneo – Land below the wind - the wonders, perils and future of this wildlife paradise

Having spent some considerable time exploring both the Malaysian and Indonesian parts of Borneo, the talk covers the amazing diversity of trees, plants, insects, birds and mammals to be found there. The talk also examines the pressures brought about by man's activities, through logging and the palm oil plantations, and discusses what the future may hold for Borneo's wildlife.

Geology and wildlife of Namibia

This talk takes us from the Namib; the oldest desert in Africa, through the Ramsar site of Wavis Bay; the destination of many of our migratory birds, to Etosha National Park, ending up in the highlands big cat country.

The Jaguar Kingdom, Birds and Mammals of Central Brazil

The Matto Grosso area of South West Brazil encompasses both the world's largest wetlands; the Pantanal, but also the little known but equally fascinating Chapada dos Guimarães National Park. The talk investigates some of the 650 species of birds and 130 species of mammals recorded here. Jaguars are the 'top' predator and the talk includes a video of a jaguar attack on a caiman.

Fee: £40, including travel expenses – waived for local groups but £10 to aid with travel expenses would be great.

Distance willing to travel: Normally up to 50 miles from Malvern but greater distances are possible upon discussion.

Booking notice required: None, depending upon availability.

Biographical info: John's educational background includes schooling at Cranbrook, Kent and an Economics degree from the University of Hull, followed by a career in construction materials manufacture and chairmanship of a BSI committee that covers, amongst other things, the design and installation of green roofs. Having been brought up in the Kent countryside he has always had an interest in the countryside but a career and growing family meant that I was not fully able to follow this passion into later in life. Now he has been lucky to travel to the many places that his talks cover and wishes to impart his knowledge to others.

MILDREN, Alan

British Marine Wildlife Conservation. Marine Vision Studios

Tel 01454 775622

E-mail amildren@talktalk.net

Website: www.marinevisionstudios.co.uk

When can be contacted: any time

Marine Vision Studios are a small environmental company looking to provide conservation in the seas around the British Isles.

T Talks with PowerPoint presentation with short films to highlight the plight of some of the animals in UK waters. They are based on the work of the Marine Conservation Society started over 25 years ago to protect and conserve the seas around Britain. The talks are normally given in 45mins or 90mins lengths but can be adapted to suit your needs.

- Conservation of our Beautiful Marine Life
- Marine Conservation Work in the UK
- The Story of a Liberty Ship the James Eagan Layn
- Heaven on Lundy (Lundy Island)
- The Mummings of Winterbourn Down
- Beautiful Marine Life in our waters

Fee: Approx £50 plus length of travel.

Biographical info: Alan has worked in British Marine Conservation and giving talks for over 35 years. His work involves producing film and media products for conservation bodies. This was done on a part time basis for a number of years before becoming full time.

MOULE, Reg

Hillcrest, 10 Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton, Worcs, WR10 2AP

Tel 01905 840 868

E-mail: reg.moule@btinternet.com

When can be contacted: phone or e mail.

T More than 20 talks available including:

- Fruit in Small Gardens
- Growing Wall Shrubs and Climbers
- Organic Gardening
- Gardening with Grasses

Phone, e-mail or send sae for full list of talks.

Fee: £85+25p a mile.

Equipment required: none

Distance will travel: 50 miles

Booking notice: as much as possible

Biographical information: Family background in Horticulture. Trained at Pershore College. Nursery/Garden Centre Manager. Gardening speaker for over 40 years. Award-winning gardening broadcaster with BBC Local Radio.

PANNELL, Roger 29, Greensforge Lane, Stourton, Stourbridge,
West Midlands DY7 5BD

Tel: 01384 872828 E-mail : rogerwdpannell@gmail.com

When can be contacted: anytime, please leave message if not answered

T Talks with slides

- The Work of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- A Beginner Bird Watching in Britain (2 x 45 mins)
- A Beginner's Guide to Bird Watching (1hr)
- Bird Watching in Britain (1hr)
- A Beginner Bird Watching in Spain (2 x 45 min sections)
- My Wild Year – a photographic diary of a year observing the natural world (any length from 30 mins to 2x45 min sections)
- "30 Days Wild" photographic diary of my involvement in the 30 day Wild campaign- a different wildlife experience for every day in June.

[Timings can be adapted for different groups]

Fees free to WWT local groups. Others £50, negotiable for smaller groups. Travel expenses included up to 20 miles
Equipment required: Projector screen (or white wall!) & table for projector / laptop
Booking notice: Happy to be called at short notice and 'emergency' situations!

Biographical info: Retired secondary school teacher, has been involved with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust for 30 years in a variety of roles, and is currently a Trustee with a special interest in communications. A birdwatcher for many years but still considers himself a bit of a beginner! Talks are generally light-hearted and aimed at non-specialist audiences. Happy to discuss adapting talks for different groups.

PANNETT, David Merton, Shepherds Lane, Bickton, Shropshire SY3 8BT

Tel: 01943 850773 E-mail: jessicapannett@hotmail.co.uk

When can be contacted: most times

T Talks with slides/overhead projection

- Various aspects of the Severn Valley (especially geomorphology and medieval fish weirs)
- Our Ice age landscape
- Evolution of plants, illustrated by our gardens (brings real specimens)
- Hedgerows in the landscape

W Walk:

- Geology/ landscape in various parts of the Severn Valley : around the Highley/Bridgnorth area and above Shrewsbury.

Fees (walks and talks): £50 plus travel expenses **(No evening travel Nov-April)**
Equipment required: none
Distance will travel (talks): Shropshire & adjacent areas north of Worcester.

Booking notice required: can be short

Biographical information: a Birmingham historical geographer, he worked at Preston Montford Field Centre and was a tutor in the Birmingham University Extramural Department for many years. He is currently a member of the Management Committee of both the Shropshire Geological Society and the Shropshire Archaeological Society. He has a special interest in "cross-subject studies" in the context of landscape history.

PARSONS, Diana (nee Bateman)

20 Fruiterers Arms Park, Uphampton Lane, Ombersley WR9 0JW

Tel.: 01905 620952

When can be contacted: use answerphone.

T Talks:

- Fungus talks [Autumn only, with displays of fresh wild fungi].

W Walks:

- Fungus forays [Autumn. Records are collected of specimens found].

Fees:

Talks: £55 plus travel expenses

Walks: Negotiable

Equipment required:

tables for displaying fungi

Distance will travel:

20 miles.

Booking notice required:

6 to 12 months.

Biographical info: has been studying mycology for over 30 years. Leader of Worcestershire Fungi Group. Has made TV and radio appearances.

PEACE, Alan

57 Wombourne Park, Wombourne, Staffs WV5 0LX

Tel: 01902 324065 / 07791 900445 E-mail: alrobpeace@btinternet.com

When can be contacted: any time.

T Talks with slides:

- "John O'Groats to Lands End – Bike-v- Bus". The story of a challenge between a pensioner using a bus pass & two young fit cyclists to see who could do the journey quickest.
- The barn owl - its plight and future.
- Himley Hall - past, present and future.
- Across the roof of Africa – dare to dream.
- The Alps and Mongolia
- Never work with children or animals (by the man who has done both and survived!)
- Assault on Aconcagua: 23,000 feet = £23,000, share the adventure.

Fee:

£40–100, depending on group size & distance travelled.

Donated to Cancer Research UK.

Equipment required:

large screen welcomed.

Distance will travel:

all areas.

Biographical info: ex printer, youth leader and professional climbing instructor. He has climbed in Mongolia, Argentina, Italy, Russia, Morocco and Tanzania as well as in the UK. Chairman of the Board of Trustees of an international conservation charity. Was for ten years a volunteer lorry driver with the German Red Cross, delivering humanitarian aid in Eastern Europe. Recently retired after 27 years as Senior Warden of the Himley Park Hall Estate, Nr Dudley.

PEARSON, Michael John 'Hampstead', Pentrosa, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5AL

Tel.: 07948 016057

E-mail: editor@blackcountrysociety.co.uk

When can be contacted: any time.

T Talks with or without presentation (based on his published books):

- Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths Around the Black Country (he hasn't used material from this book, but is happy to)
- Tracing Your Black Country Ancestors - a local history/family history book - the talk gives people an overview on certain areas of genealogy with a Black Country bias
- The Little Book of the Black Country - lots of 'odd' facts about the region - the most light-hearted of his talks
- The Black Country in the Great War - what was life like during the 1914-1918 war; how did it start and end; what was life like in the region; what about the ramifications of the infamous Zeppelin raid of 31 January 1916?
- The Black Country iron and steel industry.

Fee: £35 plus travel expenses (negotiable - but around 15-20p per mile).

Equipment required: screen and projector

Distance will travel: no limit

Booking notice required: none - can stand in at short notice, even same day.

Biographical info: Recently retired after 30 years as police officer in the West Midlands force, retiring at rank of Inspector. Sits as a Lay Member on Employment Tribunals and about to start work on a new book project.. He edits '*The Blackcountryman*', the magazine of the Black Country Society (a high-quality quarterly magazine, published since 1967). He has spoken in London and also at 'Who Do You Think You Are - Live' in Birmingham in 2015. Appeared on Midlands Today, fighting the corner for the Black Country in the 'Greater Birmingham' debate. Also took part in a film documentary on a quirky Black Country character and has been on Radio WM many times, including Carl Chinn's shows. His presentations include humour rather than comedy.

PRESCOTT, Gary Brian, (aka The Biking Birder)

Mobile : 07988754090

E-mail: bikingbirder2010@hotmail.com

T Talks with digital presentation:

- **There's a Tapir at the Door!** Birds, reserves and people seen and met during The Biking Birder years, including becoming the UK, the European and World Green Birding Champion in 2016! Talk includes adventures, birds and other creatures from the three years spent cycling around the UK and the seven months spent cycling and packrafting in Peru. (This talk can be modified according to your wishes to emphasis the UK adventures or the Peruvian one).
- **RSPB reserves and their birds.** I LOVE the RSPB and as the only person to have visited EVERY RSPB and WWT nature reserve in the UK, twice (!), the talk will include personal favourite reserves, the birds and other wildlife to be seen at them and some of the amazing people I have met at them, as well as some of the adventures of the tours.
- **Worldwide Green Birding**, including personalities and their achievements. Details some of the personalities of this growing birding sport. Find out about the wonderful personal satisfaction and the immense possibilities that the bicycle world has as a means of ecological observation; being clean and in harmony with the world of nature. Green birding is a new field that has just started but that, surely, will have a great journey. It can

be done on foot, in kayak or, as in the case of the speaker, by pedalling, but in any case, it must be free of the use of fossil fuels. And what better way than with the bicycle; a cheap way of traveling, quite fast, ecological, healthy, efficient and one that allows you to savour the landscapes.

Fees £100 covers everything.

Equipment required: projector table and screen.
(he brings projector, laptop, extension cables, speakers, clock and Power Point presentations, with stills and videos)

Distance will travel: Any distance

Booking notice required: As much as possible.
Available various dates in November and December 2019, February to April 2020 and again in November and December 2020.

Biographical info: Nationally known as The Biking Birder. Recently have completed his fourth adventure in the saddle. Three years biking birding around the whole of the UK was followed by six months cycling and packrafting in Peru! In 2010 he cycled to **every** RSPB and WWT nature reserve in the UK., repeated this in 2015, whilst trying to regain the European Green Birding crown. There were more reserves than in 2010. "how dare the RSPB buy more, yet I still visited them all!" Unfortunately, he didn't break the European Green Birding record so just carried on cycling. In 2016 he managed to beat the European Green Birding record whilst on Fair Isle and saw 318 different bird species during the fabulous year. During his adventure years he has been on Springwatch, The Adventure Show and filmed by a freelance film maker named Rob Williams. Rob is well known for a programme in which he and Charles Hamilton James bought a rainforest. He has also featured in magazines, on various websites and been the guest on numerous BBC radio programmes. Has been a Guest speaker at many Local RSPB Groups around the UK, at various bird clubs and Wildlife Trust meetings and at RSPB reserves, as well as a speaker at the RSPB' launch of the Stepping Up for Nature campaign and the RSPB Member's Weekend in 2016. **One of his aims is to show that people challenged by retirement age can be a bit different and achieve dreams.**

RYTON ORGANIC GARDENS Organic Enterprises Ltd, Garden Organic Ryton,
Wolston Lane, Coventry CV8 3LG

Tel 024 7630 8211 E-mail: enquiry@gardenorganic.org.uk
Website: www.gardenorganic.org.uk

W Group walks:

- Many individual gardens in 8 acres of landscaped grounds, including wildflower meadow biodynamic garden, composting display, Vegetable Kingdom. On site café.

Open seven days a week, guided tours available (charge), group concessions.

Gardens: Accessible for wheelchairs. Wheelchair hire available.
Bookings: tel 024 7630 8211 or email bookings@gardenorganic.co.uk

SALISBURY, RachelSpring Cottage, Crumpton Hill, Storridge, Malvern,
Worcestershire WR13 5HE

Tel.: 01886 833557

E-mail: rasalisbury@talktalk.net

When can be contacted: any time.

T Talks with slides:

- The plant hunters.
- Plant propagation [practical demonstration].
- The conservation garden.
- What's in a name? [scientific naming of plants, their meanings and background stories].
- Plants of the month.
- Plants for hot spots.
- The contained garden [available as illustrated lecture or practical demonstration].
- Ranunculaceae.
- Garden plants: heritage and conservation.
- History of the glasshouse.
- The cottage garden.

[Will also organise quiz nights]

Fee: £80 plus travel expenses.

Equipment required: none.

Distance will travel: up to 50 miles further distances negotiable.

Booking notice required: normally up to 18 months but will stand in at short notice.

Biographical info: graduated in horticulture at University of Nottingham, has previously lectured at Birmingham University in the Continuing Studies Department. She is currently taming her own large garden .

SHIRLEY, Peter
B71 4DF

75 Temple Meadows Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands,

Tel.: 0121 537 4556 / 07821 654158

E-mail: petershirley047@gmail.com

When can be contacted: any time.

T Talks with slides/digital presentations:

- Plant galls [biology, ecology and folklore].
- Wildlife of South Africa [incl. Kruger].
- Wildlife of Florida (inc. the Everglades).
- What should live where? Nature Conservation in the 21st Century.
- Wildlife and nature in towns and cities.

Fees: £35 plus travel expenses.

Equipment required: laptop and digital projector.

Distance will travel: Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire.

Booking notice required: 6 weeks.

Biographical info: Involved with or worked for the Wildlife Trusts for more than 30 years, focusing on urban wildlife. He is an author and broadcaster on nature conservation, is a founder member of the British Plant Gall Society, and is joint author of the Field Studies Council AIDGAP keys to British plant galls. Past Chair and Director of the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, Past Trustee of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, and Landlife/ The National Wildflower Centre. Fellow of the UK Urban Ecology Forum and Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

SLATER, Mike

149 Norton Leys, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 5RS

Tel.: 01788 335881

E-mail: michael.slater50@ntlworld.com

Website: Butterfly Conservation, Warwickshire Branch

When can be contacted: e-mail anytime; evenings before 9 pm.

T Talks with Powerpoint presentation:

- British butterflies.
- Woodland butterflies.
- Grassland butterflies.
- Brownfield butterflies.
- Specialised butterfly talks.

W Walks/outdoor meetings:

- Butterfly walks in Warwickshire or nearby in Worcestershire
- Butterfly identification and monitoring.
- Habitat creation.

Fees (talks and walks): £50 plus travel expenses

Equipment required: screen or white wall.

Distance will travel: 50 miles, negotiable

Booking notice required: 2 to 3 weeks

Biographical info: Conservation Officer for Butterfly Conservation, Warwickshire Branch; Reserve Manager for Ryton Wood, Ryton Wood Meadow.

SMART, Trevor

Ravenshill Lodge, Lulsley, Knightwick, Worcs. WR6 5QP

Tel: 01886 821661

E-mail: trevor@treynet.plus.com

Website: www.ravenshillwood.org.uk

When can be contacted: Any time – prefer by e mail.

T Talks with Powerpoint presentation:

- Ravenshill Woodland Reserve.

W Walks:

- Guided walks around Ravenshill Woodland Reserve.

Fee: £50 plus travel expenses.

Equipment required: screen.

Distance will travel: 30 miles.

Booking notice required: 8 weeks preferred.

Biographical info: lifetime bird watcher, manager and owner of Ravenshill Woodland Reserve.

STURDY, Ray FRGS

129 Northwick Road, Worcester, WR3 7EG

Tel.: 01905 456624

E-mail: ray.sturdy@talk21.com

Website: phototravels.co.uk

When can be contacted: any time.

T Talks with slides:

- Peru, the land of the Incas – To Lima and onto Lake Titicaca, then a high Andes trek to the lost city of Machu Picchu.

- China – an intriguing mixture of traditional and modern life. It has stunning scenery, vast rivers, bustling cities, many ornate royal palaces, and at Xian, the amazing Terracotta Warriors
- Travels in Tibet – a journey from Lhasa to Nepal through a land on the roof of the world.
- I.K. Brunel - a Victorian Genius – Isambard Kingdom Brunel worked on a massive scale with steamships, railways, docks, tunnels and bridges. These works changed our way of life and many are still in use today.
- Malvern's Memories and Marvels -, the famous water cure and celebrities of The Spa Town in the Hills.
- Africa – From Summit to Sea – To Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro then a scenic visit to South Africa and Cape Town and Wildlife Safari.
- Antarctica – To the great white continent by sea & land, travelling through awesome scenery with it's varieties of wildlife & where history was made by the early explorers.
- Witley Court, The Rise and fall of a Victorian Palace – The changing fortunes of a spectacular country mansion and its wealthy owners. Today the house grounds, the vast gardens and a superb working fountain are open to visitors.

[Note: the talks last for 1 hour and are followed by any questions. There is usually a collection for Cancer Research UK.

A list containing more talks is available from Ray Sturdy.

W Walks/outdoor meetings:

- Hill walking, wildlife/fauna.
- Digital/film photography.
- Local towns/woods.
- Industrial and local history.

Fees:	£45 donation to Cancer Research UK plus travel expenses to venues outside Worcestershire..
Equipment required:	darkened room & glass of water.
Distance will travel:	50 miles radius.
Booking notice required:	1 week.

Biographical info: he is a social walker, historian and keen photographer.

TILT, John

9 Meadow Close, Kington, Flyford Flavell, Worcs WR7 4DE

Tel.: 01386 792458 / 07957 711031 E-mail: john.tilt2@btopenworld.com

When can be contacted: after 6 pm or on mobile.

T Talks with Powerpoint presentations:

- Grafton Wood History & Natural History.
- Appreciating British Birds.
- Conservation of the Brown Hairstreak Butterfly
- Butterflies - Transect recording.
- Butterflies – Worcestershire/Woodland Meadows
- Searching for British orchids.
- Wildlife & Butterflies of Scotland

[Can vary the content and length of each talk depending on local group requirements]

W Walks:

- Grafton Wood - Birds, Flowers & Butterflies.

[Willing to lead guided walks elsewhere]

Fees:	£40, travel expenses included
Equipment required:	table for display board & table for laptop computer.
Distance will travel:	all areas.
Booking notice required:	4 weeks, but can fill in at short notice if available

Biographical info: member of WWT since 1981. Has carried out BTO bird surveys for over 20 years. Was previously a member of Hornhill & Trench Wood management committees - now the Voluntary Reserve Manager of Grafton Wood.

Also a member of Butterfly Conservation - currently the Chairman of the West Midlands Branch and Transect Co-ordinator for the West Midlands . He has been involved with the Ancient Tree Register since the beginning having written the database for the project. John is also a member of Worcestershire Biological Record Centre.

UMPOLBY, Roger, B.Sc., M.Phil. The Cottage, Elmley Road, Ashton-under-Hill, Worcs WR11 7SW

Tel.: 01386 881449	E-mail: roger@bugman.free-online.co.uk
When can be contacted:	normally any time.

T All talks are extensively illustrated with digital images

- Friends and foes in the garden.
- Bugs: the good, the bad and the ugly.
- All bugs bright and beautiful.
- Butterflies in Britain.
- Beneficial creatures in the garden
- Bredon Hill through the year: a nature-lover's view
- A close-up view of the Cotswold countryside (mainly macro-photography)
- Life in the local undergrowth (mainly macro-photography)
- The wonder of local wild flowers (mainly macro-photography)

[A number of other talks are offered, these are mainly garden or travel related]

Fee:	£10 to Wildlife Trusts, £60 minimum for other clubs and societies. Also travel expenses of 35p/mile plus any car park, toll charges etc
Equipment required:	none.
Distance will travel:	Normally no limit.
Available:	anytime normally.

Biographical info: a professional applied entomologist and horticulturalist with many years' experience of consultancy and research with government and industry. Part time advisor for RHS and occasional lecturer at Pershore College. A passionate plant and nature lover who enjoys sharing his love and respect for the natural world with anyone prepared to listen.

VALE WILDLIFE RESCUE – see BROOKES, Martin

WALKDEN, Peter 40 Alborn Crescent, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8NG

Tel.: 07879 665775 E-mail: info@peterwalkden.co.uk

When can be contacted: any time

- T** Talks making use of a Powerpoint-type presentation, with images and clips where applicable
- "Wildlife Photography" - Learning some of the tricks and techniques needed to improve your images. Equipment, fieldcraft, camera settings, wildlife welfare and post-processing tips.
 - "Magical Mull, Eagle Island" - Covering the wonderful array of wildlife that can be seen on the Isle Of Mull, and how to photograph it. Focusing on the key species that can be found on the island, such as otters and birds of prey.

[Talks can last 60-90 minutes]

Fee: £80 per talk + travel expenses at 40p a mile.

Equipment required: Table, power supply, screen and projector (compatible with Apple Macbook)

Distance will travel: Circa 50 miles around Birmingham (flexible).

Biographical info: Pete is a freelance photographer who specialises in the wildlife of the UK. Having travelled extensively across the UK, he has built up a varied gallery of much of its wildlife. Favourite locations include Worcestershire, Norfolk, Powys and the Highlands and the West Coast of Scotland, where he can indulge in his passion for birds of prey.

WALL, Terry EFIAP Platinum. PPSA. MPAGB, ARPS

The Oaks, Parkend Walk, Coalway, Gloucestershire GL16

7JR

Tel.: 01594 832956 E-mail: wildimages@terry-wall.com

Website: www.terry-wall.com

When can be contacted: 10 am to 8 pm.

T Talks with digitally projected images:

-
-
- A Wall around Bulgaria and Hungary
- Digital Africa [wildlife, especially big cats, in Samburu, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha and the Masai Mara].
- A Wall at the end of the world – Japan! Snow monkeys! Sea-eagles!
- A Wall around California: wildlife and landscapes.
- A View from a Wall: USA National Parks : Yellowstone, Grand Tetons et al – stunning autumn wildlife amidst the geyser basins.
- A Wall around my Garden : current UK wildlife touring around accessible places – just like Autumn Watch!

[Talks are travelogue style and are suitable for all ages.]

Fee: £60, plus petrol expenses

Equipment required: screen and tables for display and sale of prints and cards.
Distance will travel: up to 100 miles return; further by arrangement.
Booking notice required: any – may be available for stand-ins at short notice.

Biographical info: full time professional wildlife photographer. International award winner many times over.

WILKES, Mike F.R.P.S. 43 Feckenham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs B97
5AS

Tel.: 01527 550686 E-mail: wilkes.m1@sky.com
When can be contacted: any time.

T Digital talks:

- British Wildlife here & there (covering Midlands & Scotland)
- Action in Nature
- The Gambia
- Wildlife of the cloud forest and Galapagos islands
- Tanzania
- Tanzania revisited.

T Talks with slides:

- British birds from autumn to spring [England, Wales and Scotland].
- Spring in Spain
- Lesbos [a birder's dream island].
- Fabulous Florida
- Birds of southern Texas [water birds, desert birds and garden birds along the Texas coast].
- Kenya.
- Zimbabwe safari.

Fee: £30 to £35 depending on distance, travel included.
Equipment required: none.
Distance will travel: no limit.
Booking notice required: any time; may be available for stand-ins at short notice.
Biographical info: wildlife photographer and speaker for the last 30 years, professionally for the past 10. Organises and accompanies wildlife photography groups to Tanzania and the Galapagos Islands.

WILKINSON, Paul 6 Bossgate Close, Wombourne, South Staffordshire WV5
0NJ

Tel.: 01902 896544 / 079192 552527 (work mobile)
E-mail: plwilkinson1@sky.com / paul.wilkinson@canalrivertrust.org.uk (work)

When can be contacted: evenings and weekends if by telephone.

T Talks with digital presentation:

- Creatures of the Twilight: vampires, dragons & flying mice – a look at the strange world of nocturnal species of the UK.
- The amphibians and reptiles of the UK.
- A natural history of the Midlands canals.

- Space Invaders of the waterways - a look at the invasive species along our waterways.
- Small, personal nature reserves – how to save nature in our own back gardens.
- Water mammals
- The pond.
- The warty newt : Black Country dragons.

W Walks:

- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Bats

Fees (walks and talks): £45 incl. travel expenses.
 Equipment required: projector table and screen.
 Distance will travel: 30 miles: north Worcestershire/south Staffordshire.
 Booking notice required: 1 month minimum, preferably 6 months

Biographical info: he has been a herpetologist for over 20 years and an ecologist for British Waterways for over 5 years. He holds a species licence for great-crested newts, white-clawed crayfish, floating water plantain, natterjack toads, badgers and water voles.

WILLOWS HEDGEHOG RESCUE, Bromsgrove

Tel.: 07518 354408 E-mail: contact@willowshedgehogrescue.co.uk
 Website: www.willowshedgehogrescue.co.uk
 When can be contacted: by e-mail including as much information as possible.

T Talks:

- Hedgehog ecology and rescue. Talks subject matter also include general ecological issues pertaining to change in land management and urbanisation and resulting wildlife declines.

Fee: £50 for 60-90 minute talk. (other by arrangement). Any further collections gratefully received but not required. All proceeds go to the Rescue.
 Equipment required: Displays are used in talks but no requirement for projectors etc.
 Booking notice required: Please give as much notice as possible due to work and rescue commitments.

Biographical info: Co-founder of Willows Hedgehog Rescue; a busy rescue centre based in Worcestershire. Previously 22 years in local and national publishing and for the last 8 years Ranger for Park Services delivering practical conservation and environmental education to all ages. Also a vocal proponent in various media of individuals making changes to better our natural world.

WINNALL, Rosemary, MBE (Mrs) Willow Bank, Bliss Gate Road, Callow Hill, Bewdley, Worcestershire DY14 9XT

Tel.: 01299 266489 E-mail: rawinnall@gmail.com
 When can be contacted: anytime

T Talks with digital presentations:

- The Nature of Wyre. A celebration of Wyre Forest's wildlife (linked to the writing of the book *'The Nature of Wyre – a wildlife-rich forest in the heart of Britain'* Pisces Publications 2015)
- Nature In Focus. Capturing some of our wildlife's hidden creatures and secret lives
- Canal Adventure: Cycling the Midlands canal towpath network
- A Garden For Wildlife: How to make a garden more wildlife-friendly
- Island Wildlife: Wildlife on and around some of Britain's islands
- Exploring the Severn: from source to sea, exploring the River Severn on foot, by cycle, boat and canoe
- Between the Tides: sharing a passion for beachcombing and rock-pooling
- A Fascination With Insects: an overview of the different groups of British insects, and a few of their interesting life histories.
- Marvellous Molluscs: an overview of snails and how people have used them over the years, with details of some of our British terrestrial, freshwater and marine species.
- An Admiration for Aculeates: the search for wild bees, wasps and ants, and discovering something of their fascinating lives.

Fee:	£70
Equipment required:	none
Distance will travel:	40 miles.
Booking notice required:	as much as possible.

Biographical info: has lived and worked in the Wyre Forest for 40 years. She is a retired teacher and general naturalist with an interest in biological recording and wildlife photography. She was awarded the MBE in the 2015 New Years Honours List for her "services to the natural environment."

---- End of Directory ----