

2017

- 25th Sept. Our winter programme starts with FRANCIS KELLY, who is speaking to HNHS for the first time. Here is a summary of his natural history interests:-
2004: Turned my attention to butterflies after birding from boyhood
2012: Joined the committee of Butterfly Conservation Surrey & SW London branch after retiring as Production Editor of the Racing Post newspaper. I am webmaster and magazine editor.
2013: Editor of Butterflies of Surrey Revisited, published by Surrey Wildlife Trust.
2014: My first in a series of talks to BC Surrey branch, a showcase for my photographs taken mostly in Surrey and Sussex, plus a touch of humour.
This evening he has chosen as his title "**Butterflies - the fun side**".
(Chairman Roger Patterson)
- 2nd Oct. The subject for "**The Two Roger's**" is the wide variety of wildlife that was seen on the six HNHS summer "Field Meetings" in a variety of locations, each photographed by several members. Unfortunately it became difficult to present what was seen on the 2016 summer Field Trips during last winter, so we have slotted it in early for this programme. The summer field meetings are attended by a small number of members. We hope the showing of what we see will encourage others to join us. There is always something interesting, which could be something rare or in the "wrong" habitat, but we often find locations that are quiet and with good views. The presenters are ROGER's MASON and PATTERSON.
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 9th Oct. In 2001 the Knepp Castle Estate started the transition from extensive arable and dairy farming to a pioneering process-led conservation project. And so began the rewilding of 3,500 acres in Sussex. Natural processes have been restored with large herbivores moving freely in the landscape, as they would have a few thousand years ago. Longhorn cattle, Tamworth pigs, Exmoor ponies, fallow, roe and red deer imitate their ancestors. Each species effects the vegetation in different ways which creates a mosaic of habitats from open grassland through to regenerating scrub. In "**The Knepp Rewilding Project: a naturalistic grazing system**" PENNY GREEN, Knepp's ecologist, will share the journey of this rewilding project and the extraordinary results of the project so far, with some headline success stories including nightingales, turtle doves and purple emperors.
(Chairman Josie Allen)
- 16th Oct. ANGELA SEXTON, our newsletter editor, retired Maths teacher and long standing member of the Society will be giving an illustrated talk on "**Why and How – Shapes in Nature**". You will be fascinated as she reveals designs and shapes which are found in the Natural World.
(Chairman Roger Mason)
- 23rd Oct. GRAHAM MATTHEWS has been interested in freshwater life and the sciences since school and enjoys photographing all manner of strange and beautiful things through the microscope and also using macro photography techniques. In "**Microcosmos**" Graham will give us a guided tour through the microscope of the amazing patterns, structures and functions of some familiar and not so familiar features of the natural world, including images direct from the microscope, as well as pictures of a wide range of different microscopical subjects. The world is full of beautiful things, from the geometry of diatoms, to the sting of a bee, the hairs on your head and even the face of an ant.
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 30th Oct. A regular feature in our winter programme is popular HNHS member JOHN HAMILTON, who usually shows us something of the wildlife and regions that many of us will never visit. "**Ethiopia – the Roof of Africa**" is a journey along the Rift Valley and across the Highlands encountering many bird species and mammals, including the rare Ethiopian Wolf.
(Chairman Josie Allen)
- 6th Nov. ALAN STEWART has been a Senior Lecturer in Ecology at Sussex University since 1993. His principal research field is the ecology and conservation of insects, with particular interests in temperate grasslands, tropical forests, habitat restoration and the recovery of rare and endangered species. Alan is a trustee of the Sussex Wildlife Trust and chairs their conservation committee. See <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/stewartlab/>.
The lecture this evening is "**Glow worms: a natural history and uncertain future**". Alan will start with a description of the basic life cycle and natural history of glow worms in Britain, briefly mentioning their exotic firefly relatives in warmer climates of the world. He will then look at the

evidence for changes in glow worm populations at individual sites and across the country. He will outline the main threats that glow worms face and then focus in detail on one in particular: artificial lighting at night. This will include a description of some experiments that he has recently been doing to test whether this 'light pollution' is adversely affecting glow worms, within the wider context of impacts on other wildlife.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

13th Nov. Making a return visit to HNHS is ANDY HORTON, who is a retired writer and photographer specialising in natural history and ecology of the wild spaces of England, especially seashore and the South Downs. Andy is the founder and chief executive of the British Marine Life Study Society, with appearances on radio and television. He lives in Shoreham, so he has first hand experience of Mill Hill and study of the downs, the title of this evenings presentation "[Mill Hill through the Seasons](#)".

(Chairman Su Reed)

20th Nov. Annual General Meeting. This will be followed by a presentation by several HNHS members. The title is "**Every picture tells a story**". We have all taken photographs that have left us with memories and stories of incidents. Each presenter will show a number of images, then tell us what those stories are. It could be an incident on a field trip, holiday or perhaps an amusing tale. If you are willing to make a contribution please see Roger Patterson.

(Chairman Roger Patterson)

27th Nov. Britain has more than 500 species of sawflies (Hymenoptera: Symphyta), all of which have plant-eating larvae. Some will be familiar as garden pests but the majority feed on a wide range of plants that are not in cultivation. ANDREW HALSTEAD's talk, "[Sawflies – a beginner's guide](#)" will describe the biology of these insects and will feature some easy to recognise species. He is the retired Royal Horticultural Society's Entomologist with 41 years experience of pests and wildlife in gardens.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

4th Dec. HNHS member SU REED has presented some interesting lectures, often with unusual topics, but always well illustrated. Her title this evening is "**Churchyards and Verges, Unlikely Nature Reserves**", which takes a seasonal look at some churchyards and roadside verges, and the wonderful wildlife that can be found there"

(Chairman Josie Allen)

11th Dec. Environmental consultant and author JOHN FELTWELL is making his first visit to HNHS this evening, his topic being "[Rainforests](#)". John has been to South America 12 times, up and down parts of the Amazon, so he is well placed to tell us about their myths and legends, biodiversity, beauty, habitats, flora and fauna etc. It sounds fascinating.

(Chairman Su Reed)

18th Dec. **Christmas Party and Competitions.** These will be the "**Tillin Cup**", "**Coxon Plate**" and "**Craft Competitions**" which are now annual events. Please see newsletter for details.

2018

8th Jan. When HNHS member JOHN RICHARDSON retired in May 2001 he moved to Lavender Cottage in Ifold, near Loxwood. He decided to make a photographic record of all forms of nature within 1 mile radius. "**Within a mile of Lavender Cottage**" is an attempt to show some of the better images taken during the ensuing years.

Lavender Cottage consists of approx 1 acre of garden and 3½ acres of woodland including a small pond which John dug when he moved in. The soil is clay and woodland, mainly Oak and Ash with Hazel. The presentation contains over 300 images, so is of course only scratching the surface of the total possible, but at least shows just what may be out there if we look hard enough.

(Chairman Josie Allen)

15th Jan. This evening we have the first presentation by HNHS member ROBERT BROWN. He set up the Earles Meadow Conservation Group from scratch in October 2010. It works on 10 acres of Public Open Space owned by the North Horsham Parish Council and comprises two meadows, woodland, parkland and two small streams pass through. The principal aim of the Group is to keep the site accessible for the enjoyment and recreation of the Public whilst protecting and preserving the natural environment. The Public are often unaware of what is involved in organising a

conservation group and take it for granted. In **"Why did I say Yes" or "The Trials and Joys of Conservation Volunteering"** Robert will tell us the goods and bads of this work.
(Chairman Roger Mason)

- 22nd Jan. JOSIE ALLEN has been a member of HNHS since 2009 and since retiring she has developed her keen interest in natural history, often concentrating on a special interest topic. Some people become obsessive about adult butterflies, but a small group of us have taken it even further by searching for eggs and caterpillars as well as adult butterflies. We have also attended lectures and learnt about a few of the early collectors.
"Butterfly mania" will be based on our monthly outings to Botany Bay and Oaken Wood Nature Reserve near Chiddingfold, and other places which suit butterflies such as the Tillets Lane butterfly fields.
(Chairman Roger Patterson)
- 29th Jan. This evenings speaker, DAVID CAMPBELL, was recruited as a result of him visiting one of our lectures last winter. Roger doesn't miss many opportunities! David works for BirdGuides.com and has been the Assistant Warden at Dungeness Bird Observatory. Liking a challenge, he picked a piece of waterless intensive farmland to adopt as a local patch and has now been watching it for eight years, proving that there is fruitful birding to be done even in apparently barren areas. In **"Birding by ridge and furrow: the avian treats of a Surrey farm"** we investigate some of the conservation concerns relating to farmland birds.
(Chairman Josie Allen)
- 5th Feb. HNHS is a general interest natural history society and if members were asked to name the member with the greatest interest and knowledge ROGER MASON would probably be the one most members would think of. Certainly on field trips if there is something that needs identification Roger is the one usually consulted, whatever the subject. This evening his chosen title is **"Gills, Pores, Spines, Eggs, Etc"**, where we will take a look at how fungi protect and disperse their spores, with reference to some of the beautiful colours and intriguing shapes found locally"
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 12th Feb. MARGARET PILKINGTON has been studying wildflower meadows since 1995 including the wonderful West Sussex Coronation Meadow at Bedelands Farm LNR. As well as show-casing this meadow, her talk **"Coronation Meadows"** will explain the idea behind the Coronation Meadow Initiative and look at how successful it has been in creating new meadows. She is emeritus at the University of Sussex and leads The River Ouse Project. Her book on Wildflower Meadows was published in 2012.
(Chairman Roger Patterson)
- 19th Feb. In **"Wonders of Life in Water"** HNHS member NICK SEXTON will be repeating a lecture he gave several years ago, but with some new material. Nick has his own presentation style that is delivered with enthusiasm, where he carefully explains his subject to the audience.
(Chairman Roger Mason)
- 26th Feb. The **"Members Evening"** is an annual feature where several members make a short presentation of around 10-15 minutes. This could be on any natural history related subject and in any format. It gives members an opportunity to make a presentation on a subject of their own choice that is too short for a full lecture. This event usually shows some surprises with a wide variety of topics. The entertainment value is often quite high! The change of format and equipment on the night is often quite entertaining too!
If you would like to share your interest with us please contact Roger Patterson, before you get your arm twisted!
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 5th March. Coulters Dean is a small gem of a nature reserve with SSSI status in the South Downs near Petersfield, that is owned by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. It is part chalk grassland, part semi-natural ancient woodland, that is renowned for plants and butterflies, some of them rare. In **"An Introduction to Coulters Dean Nature Reserve"**, DIANNE and MARTIN MITCHELL will tell us about this little known site. Martin will concentrate on the history and geology, Dianne, who is the Voluntary Manager, will tell us about the wildlife that includes plants and butterflies.
(Chairman Roger Mason)
- 12th March. This evening we will see the 9th episode of **"The Two Rogers"** which has become a firm favourite in our winter programme. As usual ROGER MASON and ROGER PATTERSON will show us what

was seen and photographed by a number of members on the summer 2017 "Field Meetings". Roger Mason organises them and he will describe what was found, as well as previously identifying the species on the slides, which is not an easy task. The illustrations are chosen and assembled by Roger Patterson from those that were captured and supplied by the attendees.

There will no doubt be the usual surprises, together with the usual dollop of banter.
(Chairman Josie Allen)

19th March.

JAKE EVERITT is the well known and well respected Senior Countryside Warden at Horsham District Council. He is making a return visit to HNHS this evening with the title of "**Migration – Bugs, Birds and Beasts**". From birds and mammals to butterflies and hoverflies; this illustrated talk looks in depth at the lengths some animals migrate to exist in some of the world's harshest environments. This talk focuses on the reasons for migration and thinks about the "urge" that pushes animals big and small to travel huge distances to increase their chances of survival and all animals are willing to sacrifice their life in order to reproduce.

(Chairman Roger Patterson)