

2019

30th Sept.

Our first speaker on the 2019/20 winter programme is MIKE EDWARDS who is well known to many of us, having been the tutor on insect days and spoken at winter meetings on several occasions. There is much being claimed in the media about the impending loss of pollination insects, especially bees, some of it beyond rational belief. What is the situation in the UK with these insects and how are changes in populations being recorded and interpreted? Mike is data manager for the Bees Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS) and director of his own ecology and data business. He has been (and is still) involved in several high-profile research projects concerned with these insects - the reality is clearly much more nuanced than many of the media claims would have us believe. He will discuss these issues in **"How and why do populations of ants, bees and wasps change?"**
(Chairman Roger Patterson)

7th Oct.

A new speaker to HNHS is JANE REEVE who has a background in mammal conservation both abroad and on UK projects. She has been a university lecturer in Wildlife and Habitat management. Despite being involved in Indian Tiger and Javan Silvery Gibbon projects Jane found her passion in water voles and wetlands and is never happier than when in her waders messing about in a ditch.
"Wonderful water voles, their life and struggles" will cover water vole ecology and behaviour, habitat needs, why they are a protected species, how to survey for them and Jane's current project in natural flood management that also creates new habitat for them.
(Chairman Josie Allen)

14th Oct.

LAURIE JACKSON is an ecologist, wildlife guide and natural history trainer who has lived in Sussex since 2008. Wildlife and travel are two of Laurie's greatest passions, and she has combined these through stints of assisting with research and a regular job leading wildlife holidays since 2013. In her talk **"Transylvania - the land beyond the forest"** Laurie will tell us a little about the rich wildlife and culture of this fascinating corner of Romania from her experience of travelling and researching butterflies there.
(Chairman Roger Patterson)

21st Oct.

With a lifelong passion for watching wildlife and a degree in Environmental Management, TOM FORWARD has spent 15 years working to inspire people to enjoy, learn about and care for our natural world through roles with the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary in Kerala, India, the Field Studies Council in Suffolk and Sussex Wildlife Trust. He currently works as a freelance ecologist and environmental educator and is a guide at the Knepp rewilding project.
Three species of lizard and three species of snake make up the native reptile fauna of Sussex. **"The Reptiles of Sussex"** will cover their identification, life-cycles, ecology and conservation, and the best places to discover them for yourself near Horsham and beyond. It will also include mention of some of the non-native reptiles that turn up across Sussex and curiosities such as the black grass snakes of Gatwick.
(Chairman Roger Mason)

28th Oct.

With some additions and a title change **"Highlights of 2018/19"** is the talk by JOSIE ALLEN that was abandoned in the last programme due to illness. There were lots of interesting natural history high spots with visits to Knepp, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire nature reserves, and lots of other places where nature can be observed. Josie has been a member of HNHS since 2009 and has never disappointed us with her thoughtful and informative presentations, often based on visits to interesting places at different times of the year in the company of other nature lovers.
(Chairman Su Reed)

4th Nov.

Making a return visit after several years is SIMON DAVEY who is a freelance ecologist based in Sussex, with general natural history interests, but he specialises particularly in lichens. He has travelled the world as a natural history tour leader and as a lecturer on cruise ships. His particular passion is to encourage people to engage with the natural world in as many habitats as possible. He is the author of three books, including the Lichens of Jersey, published in 2015.

"Woodland from the Equator to the Arctic" will look at examples of woodland from the Amazon Basin, Costa Rica, Ecuador, through Europe, Newfoundland, and Northern Norway (including Spitzbergen). It will include a snapshot of the flora of these woodlands and will also refer to lichens.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

11th Nov.

The talk this evening is **"Spiders of Sussex"** by GRAEME LYONS, who has been working for Sussex Wildlife Trust as their ecologist for the last 11 years and in this time he has developed a fondness for spiders. For the last two years Graeme has been county recorder for spiders in Sussex. In early 2019 he accepted the challenge from Matt Prince, county recorder for Devon, to list the most spiders in a year. At the time of writing (22nd May 2019) Graeme had already seen 250 species of spiders in 2019! This challenge is producing many records of rare and unusual spiders, so by the end of 2019 he is expecting a lot of exciting spider stories from the south east.

(Chairman Su Reed)

18th Nov.

Annual General Meeting. This will be followed by **"An entomological year with my camera"** by HNHS member SU REED. Su has the ability to spot things that others often don't see. Her presentations always show her ability with a camera as well as her extensive knowledge of wildlife, so we are likely to be in for a treat this evening.

(Chairman Josie Allen)

25th Nov.

The Medmerry Management Realignment Scheme, near Bracklesham, West Sussex, is now 5 years old. During this time, the Environment Agency has coordinated and funded many aspects of monitoring, culminating in a conference in March 2019. STEVE WEBSTER is the RSPB Site Manager for the reserve, and for Pagham Harbour LNR. In his talk **"Medmerry Reserve – 5 years on..."** he will be explaining a bit about the realignment scheme, how it works and going through some of the results of the monitoring.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

2nd Dec.

In LINDA PITKIN's previous visits she has shown us some amazing photographs of life under water. For this visit she has chosen the title **"Wildlife photography underwater"** which is a bit of a blanket theme that will cover various photographic trips. This will include some photo's of weird and wonderful creatures from Indonesia taken on one of Linda's recent trips, and a few other shots closer to home.

(Chairman Josie Allen)

9th Dec.

This evening we welcome the return of NEIL HULME who is a well known butterfly enthusiast, conservationist and co-author of 'The Butterflies of Sussex'. His efforts to reverse the declines of the Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies in Sussex were recognised by the award of the British Empire Medal in 2017. He has since reintroduced the regionally extinct Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and continues to work on other locally threatened species such as the Grayling.

"Butterflies in the countryside west of Arundel" will focus on the wealth of butterflies found in a relatively small area of the countryside west of Arundel.

(Chairman Su Reed)

16th Dec.

Christmas Party. Please see newsletter and listen to announcements at meetings for details.

2020

6th Jan.

HNHS have walked around various places near to Horsham on summer evenings for many years. This is the first time we are reporting what we have seen to the general membership in the hope of tempting members to take part and encourage potential members to the society. Who knows at the time of writing what treats there will be? In previous years we have seen some wonderful dragonflies, rare flowers and visited some interesting places. JOSIE ALLEN and SU REED will show and describe what was seen during the 2019 walks in **"The Monday evening summer walks"**

(Chairman Roger Mason)

13th Jan.

The main natural history interest of HNHS member JOHN RICHARDSON is birds, often from far away places that many of us will never have the opportunity to visit. He usually includes other subjects to give us a flavour of his many travels. **"Around the world in 80 birds - and more"** is his chosen title this evening, the "...and more" may well include some of his usual surprises.

(Chairman Su Reed)

20th Jan.

JACQUI MIDDLETON. **"Nordic Montane Ecology"**

Winter Meeting Secretary's note:-

In asking speakers for abstracts I am presented with a wide variety. I can copy and paste some without alteration, some are several hundred words long that I edit into something much shorter, often by removing what has nothing to do with the topic, others I am given nothing and told something like ".....you know me - make it up yourself"! Some of our speakers are very busy and interesting people. As an example I share Jacqui Middleton's abstract as I think shows that despite a very busy and interesting life, she can still find time to speak to others about her interests, so I have left it as received. *Roger.*

I am employed as an Open University Associate Lecturer on five environmental science/studies modules (across all undergraduate levels from entry to final year modules, with final year modules being my speciality). I work from home and, apart from the ninety students I look after, I also look after a busy husband (Bruce, who you know!) and our daughter Isabelle, a dog, cat, an Icelandic pony (brought over from my time in Iceland) and a good number of bee colonies (11 at present and building!).

This is a slide show about how I got into all things Nordic, and some of the ecology that goes with it. We will travel from Abisko in Arctic Sweden, where I developed this infatuation, when I was an undergraduate in the 1980s. Then to the glaciers of south-central Norway, where I studied for my PhD, and then Iceland, another love of mine, where I lived for eight years. Finally, we will end with a recent trip (2018) back to Sweden – this time to south-central Sweden. The plan for my presentation is to present some of the ecology through my research and ecological interests.

(Chairman Roger Patterson)

27th Jan.

TOM SIMPSON is the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership Officer. His work mainly focuses on managing for biodiversity at two sites around Gatwick Airport, where there is a surprising variety of habitats and associated wildlife that he will tell us about in **"Gatwick Biodiversity"**.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

3rd Feb.

IAN CURRIE is a local weatherman who has made several previous visits to HNHS. He operates the weather website Frosted Earth <http://www.frostedearth.co.uk> and offers several weather related services to industry and individuals. This evening Ian will tell us about **"The wonderful World of Clouds"**.

(Chairman Roger Patterson)

10th Feb.

"The Two Rogers" is the long running favourite that will show members what was seen on the 2019 "Field Meetings". Photographs will be selected from the several hundreds that were taken by attendees. ROGER MASON will name and describe what was seen and ROGER PATTERSON will put the programme together (if he has time!). We regularly see things that are unexpected, perhaps in the wrong place or out of season. There may be some repetition of species, but they are shown to indicate they may tolerate different soil types/conditions or have an extended season. There are usually some surprises.

(Chairman Josie Allen)

17th Feb.

IAN RUMLEY-DAWSON is a freelance wildlife photographer, lecturer and course leader who has travelled to many parts of Britain, Europe and other more remote regions of the world, to study and record animals in the wild. This evening he is close to home with the topic of deer.

In parts of Britain, deer are very abundant, but have become extremely wary because they have been so extensively hunted during the last few hundred years. Their three main senses of scent, sight and hearing are extremely acute, which may sometimes make it quite difficult to watch these secretive animals. However, with a lot of patience, experience and some careful stalking, they can be easily seen and studied in some deer parks, as well as in Britain's wilder countryside. This lecture, **"Deer in Britain"**, will show how to identify the different species and will describe their annual cycle of life and antler development.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

24th Feb.

The speaker this evening is ROGER PATTERSON who first joined HNHS in the 1970s. He was born and brought up in the area and has lived and worked there all his life. An engineer by trade, Roger has always been involved with the land. As well as being a well known beekeeper, he has been involved with farming, fruit growing, hedge laying, coppicing, timber cutting, etc.

When time allows he likes to walk in the company of his dogs and anyone else who doesn't mind stopping to look at or photograph something interesting, even though he may not know what it is. He has had a lifetime close to nature, where his keen eye is often able to spot something different that others may miss.

Sussex is very diverse with plenty to see. As well as nature **"A Few Observations of Sussex"** will probably cover a few of the people, places and history that are part of the county. This lecture was postponed from the last winter programme.

(Chairman Josie Allen)

2nd March.

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 does not have to be in PowerPoint. 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 Roger Patterson)

9th March.

Each year the winter programme features a lecture by HNHS stalwart ROGER MASON. His knowledge of a wide range of natural history subjects, as shown by his titles, is a great asset to the society. This evening he has chosen **"Spiders around the home"**, but as he stated in an email "I can't be specific about the content until I know what Graeme (Lyons) is going to say." Whatever it is we will be guaranteed an informative and well illustrated presentation.

(Chairman Su Reed)

16th March.

DAVID BONE will close our winter programme with an interesting sounding title of **"The making of Sussex; our geological history"**. David has studied the geology of Sussex for over 45 years, starting out as a fossil collector but moving on to writing both popular guides and academic papers. He regularly gives talks and leads trips, including fossil hunts, landscape walks and the historic building stones of our churches. He is a member of several geological organisations and currently Chair of the Sussex Geodiversity Partnership.

During this talk we will travel through 140 million years of the ancient past in Sussex, from dinosaurs to mammoths, tropical seas to icebergs, to discover the immense variety of our geological heritage.

(Chairman Roger Patterson)