

**Birmingham
Natural History
Society**

Founded 1858

Registered Charity No 500819

President: Ms Kat Clifford

Internet address: <http://bnhsoc.org.uk>

NEWSLETTER No 106 – September 2015

Lecture Programme 2015-2016

Friends Meeting House, Selly Oak, starting at 7.30 pm

16 October 2015

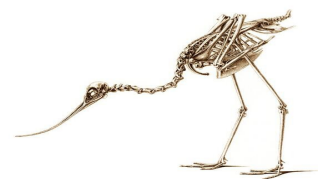
Peter Preece – Every picture tells a story – Part 2

Following Peter's well-received talk last year, with his stunning photographs, he will literally illustrate yet more tips on how and where to photograph wildlife.

20 November 2015

Katrina van Grouw - A very fine swan indeed: art, science and *The Unfeathered Bird*

Katrina writes, 'It's about the 25 year journey to create the book, *The Unfeathered Bird*, what inspired it, how we prepared the specimens that I used as models for my illustrations, and how ordinary birders can get so much more from knowing a little bit about what goes on beneath the feathers. You may have seen the book, and me, on Springwatch in 2014. Despite appearing to be about bird anatomy, both the presentation and the book are actually all about living birds and their adaptations to their environment. The talk is lavishly illustrated with drawings and photographs.'



15 January 2016

Professor Ian Trueman - Using botanical data to understand change and the ecological network in Birmingham & the Black Country and in Shropshire

Ian takes his usual Ronseal approach to this lecture title.

19 February 2016

Morgan Bowers – Gung-ho natural history

Morgan is a Senior Countryside Ranger with Walsall Council, Bat Care Coordinator with the Birmingham and Black Country Bat Group, and until June this year was Chair of the Black Country and Staffordshire Naturalists. Her talk will be about citizen science: engaging and training volunteers, including the use of social media, and field and biological recording skills.

18 March 2016

Dr Peter Jarvis – Grasshoppers, locusts, crickets and people

A look at how we view and use insects in the order Orthoptera, looking at these animals as food, as pests, as animals sometimes needing conservation management, and as objects in art, culture, design and symbolism.

15 April 2016

Presidential lecture: Kat Clifford

John Graham Reeve

It is with sadness that Council reports the death of John Reeve last April, following a long illness. John had been a stalwart of the Society for many years, had given some fascinating and erudite talks to us, and had served as an efficient and conscientious auditor for a number of years.

As a keen entomologist he was one of a group of ten volunteers who in 2006 undertook what was the first transnational conservation project under the auspices of Butterfly Conservation Europe. The aim was to prepare a report on Lepidoptera in two of the National Parks in Hungary, identified as an ideal project during a visit by John and a couple of colleagues during a visit in 2005 in cooperation with the then newly-formed Hungarian Lepidoptera Society. John indeed was to have given a talk on this work to the Society when illness intervened. As well as BNHS he was also a long-standing member of Butterfly Conservation and the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

John had served as a Liberal Democrat Councillor in Shirley East for 22 years after winning a by-election in 1989. He became Mayor of Solihull in 2006 and was made an Honorary Alderman (the highest award that can be made to a former councillor in recognition of exceptional service to the Council) in October 2011.

AGM

The Society's AGM was held on 17 April, with sixteen members attending. Copies of the 2014 AGM Minutes and of the audited Accounts can be sent to members who were unable to attend, on request to the Hon Secretary.

Officers and Members of Council were elected as proposed on the Calling Notice. Mr Geoff Collins was re-elected as Auditor, and Miss Margaret Kingsbury and Dr Peter Coxhead were re-elected as Nominee Trustees.

The President, Ms Kat Clifford, then gave a talk on 'Cryptozoology – the search for new species'.

Journals need a home

Council has agreed to let members have back copies of some of the journals the Society receives in exchange for our *Proceedings*. The Library is to keep the two most recent back issues, then release preceding issues on a rolling basis as new issues come in. Please let the Hon. Librarian or Hon. Secretary know if you would like any of the following:

Avon - Journal and Bird Report - 2007, 2008

British Journal of Entomology & Natural History - 2007 to 2014 (Dec 2013 missing)

BSBI News - 2007, 2008

Coventry Natural History & Scientific Society - 2007 to 2013

Gloucester Naturalist - lots of issues up to 2014

Warwickshire Natural History Society - 2007 to 2014

Watsonia – 2006-2008

The Nature of Wyre

edited by Peter Shirley, Rosemary Winnall and Harry Green

PiscesPublications October 2015 210 x 284 mm 320 pp hardback £35.00

Subtitled 'A wildlife-rich forest in the heart of Britain'. On the borders of Shropshire and Worcestershire, 25 miles from Birmingham, the Wyre Forest is one of Britain's most important ancient woodlands. With full-colour illustrations throughout, this is the first comprehensive natural history of the forest, featuring Wyre's history from its geology and fossils to present-day human activity. It contains comprehensive accounts of fungal, plant and animal groups written by expert field naturalists.

WARWICKSHIRE FUNGUS SURVEY

Programme for the rest of 2015

Saturday 10 October 2015

10.00am Oakley Wood, VC 38, OS sheet 151, grid reference SP303596. Park in the furthest car park within the crematorium. This is a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Fungus Day and also a UK Fungus Day event.

For more information, contact the organiser Ben Devine tel: 024 7630 2912, mobile: 07900 730 452, email: Ben.Devine@wkwat.org.uk

Sunday 25 October 2015

10.30am Glasshouse Spinney Nature Reserve, Kenilworth, VC 38, Landranger sheet 140. Meet at parking on bend in Glasshouse Lane at SP303713.

Contact: John Roberts. (01926 421544)

Sunday 1 November 2015

10.30am Snitterfield Bushes Nature Reserve, VC 38, Landranger sheet 151. Park in the car park south of the reserve entrance at grid reference SP200603.

Contact: Bert Brand. (01789 267402)

Sunday 15 November 2015

10.30am Upton House NT, VC 38, Landranger sheet 151. Meet in the National Trust car park at SP370461. Forayers should be admitted free of charge, providing we send them a list of records.

Contact: David Antrobus. (0121 422 8830)

Sunday 22 November 2015

10.30am Ryton Pools Country Park, VC 38, Landranger sheet 140. Enter from the A445 and park at the Visitor Centre (fee) at SP370724.

Contact: John Sells. (02476 543217)

Sunday 29 November 2015

10.30am Coventry War Memorial Park, VC 38, Landranger sheet 140. Meet in (free) Park and Ride near entrance at SP322773.

Contact: John Roberts. (01926 421544)

Sunday 10 January 2016 10.30am

AGM.

Contact: John Roberts. (01926 421544)

If you want to attend a foray, please inform the contact person a few days beforehand. This will ensure that you do not arrive at a foray that has been cancelled or moved to a different location. The contact person will send a reminder by email to group members two days before a meeting. Please reply stating your intention to attend the meeting or not. If the contact person decides to cancel a meeting, he will notify group members by email.

After a foray, please check A Fungus Flora of Warwickshire and the additions to the Flora or the contact person to confirm that any of the less-common species that you have collected have already been recorded for the County. If they have not, PLEASE KEEP DRIED MATERIAL for the herbarium.

Please send lists of species that you have found on the forays in Warwickshire to John Sells, 57 Craven Avenue, Binley Woods, Coventry CV3 2JS or David Antrobus. Where possible, please state the habitat and associated trees and plants for each record. If you find an interesting fruiting of fungi, and think that others would be interested, please ring John Williams at the number below. It may be possible to arrange a foray at short notice.

Permission has been obtained from landowners to collect for scientific purposes. In the interests of conservation, please do not collect more specimens than necessary for your personal use. We do not encourage collection for culinary purposes on our forays.

The Warwickshire Fungus Survey is affiliated to the British Mycological Society.

Our web address is: <http://wfs.bnhsoc.org.uk/>

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To contact the Hon Secretary or to provide copy for the next Newsletter:

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SAVE paper, printing and postage costs: could members let me know if they would be happy to receive the Newsletter by email. Many thanks to the increasing number of members who have already done this.