

Worthing Natural History Society Autumn Newsletter September 2012

Society Officers and Committee

President	Mr. Chris Pennells
Chairman	Miss Jean Button
Hon. Secretary	Dr. Lawson Powell
Treasurer	Mrs. Jenny Clark
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Jay Cooper
Outings Secretary	Mrs Dorothy O'Neil

Committee Mr. Douglas Twomey (Vice-Chairman), Ms Avril Kennard, Mrs Margot Hollingdale

We hope that you enjoyed the Summer walks programme, in spite of the variable weather. They say that variety is the spice of life and we have certainly had that with the weather this year. Hopefully there has been something for everyone. However, the daylight hours are shortening and it is time once again to turn our thoughts to the Winter talks programme, which will take place at Goring United Reformed Church Hall in Shaftesbury Avenue. For new members (who we welcome), and those still unsure, directions are given below. Wouldn't it be great if each of us could enrol one new member over the next year? Personal recommendation is by far the best advertisement.

How do I get there?

Car/Foot: Go south over the railway bridge in Shaftesbury Avenue and turn first right at the bottom of the hill. The church entrance is on the right. Cars go right round the church and park at the front.

Bus: An hourly No.9 service from Shoreham stops just before the church and the No.9 from Littlehampton stops just after the Sports Centre. Bus timetables are available at the Worthing Tourist Information which is now located in part of the Dome Cinema complex. There is also a 10 minute Pulse service between Durrington and Lancing.

Train: The church is adjacent to Durrington station. Trains appear to leave Shoreham at 13.30 and 13.46 and arrive at Durrington Station at 13.41 and 13.59. Trains appear to leave Durrington at 16.30 and 16.50 and arrive at Shoreham at 16.42 and 17.04. However, check these times because train timetables have a habit of changing.

Winter Talks Programme

November 10th 'The Wildlife of the Seychelles' Ian Rumley-Dawson

Ian Rumley-Dawson is a freelance wildlife photographer, sound recordist, lecturer and course leader who has travelled to many different parts of Britain, Europe and many remote regions of the world. He comments that 'these tiny islands in the Indian Ocean are so far from any other land masses that they have evolved some of their own unique species of wildlife, such as the giant tortoise, geckos, strange tenebrionid beetle, giant millipede, Coco de Mer nut (largest seed in the world), as well as a beautiful mixture of colourful tropical flowers.'

November 24th 'Fossils of Bracklesham Bay,' David Bone

Local geologist, David Bone, has been studying West Sussex geology for 40 years. He will be giving a powerpoint presentation on the fossils of Bracklesham Bay and showing us specimens. David has led many fossil hunts at Bracklesham and has produced a guide 'Fossil Hunting at Bracklesham and Selsey'.

December 8th AGM and Photographic Competition

Forms and further information for the digital photographic competition will be available from Chris Pennells who will be collecting the entries. This year photographic print entries can be from non-digital as well as digital cameras. Last date for submitting your entries will be the second Autumn meeting.

January 5th New Year Party

Quizzes, cakes and cups of tea and good company! Come and enjoy and bring a savoury or sweet contribution.

January 19th 'Guyana – the last true wilderness' Mike Russell

Mike Russell, the Adult Learning Manager for the Sussex Wildlife Trust, will introduce us to the wildlife of Guyana, a country almost as big as Britain and much of which is rainforest, most of it in pristine condition.

February 2nd Members' Afternoon

This is where you, the members, can come and share your experiences of the natural world. Bring along any paintings, photographs, books, specimens, etc. There will be talks in the first half of the meeting and the second half will be given over to the members.

February 16th 'Dragonflies' Phil Belden

Anyone who has a pond in their garden will probably have been blessed with the sight of dragonflies and damselflies. We shall learn more about these beautiful creatures today.

March 2nd 'Through the seasons in a Sussex woodland' Reg Lanaway

Sussex is blessed by being one of the most wooded counties in England. Reg Lanaway worked at Plumpton Agricultural College and the Plumpton estate includes ancient semi-natural woodlands and it is through this habitat that he takes us this afternoon.

March 16th 'Droughts, Deluges and Dust Devils' Ian Currie

As I write this the country has been experiencing some deluges that have seen rivers breaking their banks and extensive flooding. However, not so long ago, we saw hosepipe restrictions imposed because of drought caused by a very dry winter. With weather patterns changing it seemed timely to invite Ian Currie, the Weatherman, to talk to us.

When does it start and finish?

The doors will be open from 2pm and the talks will start at 2.30pm. There will be a tea break from 3.15 to 3.45pm after which the talk will resume, finishing around 4.15pm. Please remember to sign in when you come in. Members pay £1 at each meeting and non-members will pay £2.