

Ongar Wildlife Society

An Occasional Newsletter

Number 2

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Recent Talks

As Chairman, I may be biased a little but the three recent talks have exceeded the usual high standard that we have come to expect of our speakers. All these talks were accompanied by excellent, illustrative slides. "The Migration Atlas" in February impressed that bird migration is a complex phenomenon. In recent years, we have become more conscious that the success of our bird population is dependent not only on their habitat in this country, but on the migration habitats as well. Anyone who heard the talk will now be able to approach the atlas with confidence!

In March, Jim Smith, who has talked to OWLS in past years, presented a comprehensive guide to the wildlife at Hanningfield Reservoir Reserve. There are no birds at the reserve with whom Jim is not on first name terms . . . and vice versa, it is believed! OWLS will endeavour to organise a group visit in the future to the reserve.

The recent talk on Pitsea Tip included an explanation of both the waste management processes employed there and the adaptation of the fox colony to successfully living in areas of the tip. Should there be sufficient demand from within OWLS, we plan an evening visit to the tip. Please contact Allan Cook, the Programme Secretary, should you wish to be included, but be prepared for a ride in a Land Rover.

Thanks are also due to Anne Brooks, who stepped in at the shortest of notices to fill the breach in January. Anne succeeded not only in finding a talk, but moreover the subject of the talk was close to that of the scheduled talk.

Forthcoming Meetings Programme

7.45 pm, Monday, 20th May
Life and Colour of the Pyrenees by Tony Powell

12.00 pm, Saturday, 29th June
Annual General Meeting Mill Lodge, Fyfield

Please remember the Annual General Meeting. All those who came last year will surely come again! There will be the conventional, short, formal meeting, of course, but afterwards an excellent barbecue will precede a local walk in the vicinity of Fyfield during the afternoon. All are welcome!

Summer Walks and Visits

Please also be reminded of the programme of walks and visits. In particular, please note that there are two events before the May meeting. The next visit is imminent! On **Sunday, 28th April**, we will meet at Ongar Sports Centre at 9.30 am before setting off for the visit to the Lea Valley Reserve. Brian Turnpenny will lead. Contact Brian as below.

On the evening of Thursday, 16th May, we'll be visiting Hawksmere Spring, meeting there at around 7.00 pm. Brian Turnpenny was Warden of the reserve for many years. The visit will involve a leisurely walk around the reserve, followed by a social stop at the Mole Trap, either walking or driving there, on the way home. Anne Brooks will lead.

9.30 am, Sunday, 28 th April Visit to Lea Valley Reserve	Bird Outing meet at Ongar Sports Centre
7.00 pm, Thursday, 16 th May Hawksmere Spring	Flowers Walk meet at Hawksmere Spring
2.00 pm, Tuesday, 11 th June Coleman's Farm, Stanford Rivers	Local Dragonflies meet at Repentance Cottage
2.00 1030 pm, Saturday, 13 th July Writtle Forest	Forest Walk meet at Ongar Sports Centre
8.00 pm, Friday, 9 th & 30 th August Repentance Cottage, Greensted	Moth Hunts meet at Repentance Cottage
2.30 pm, Sunday, 22 nd September Ongar Park Wood	Fungi meet at Ongar Park Wood

Ongar Tree Strategy

As announced at the April meeting, a tree strategy is to be developed for the parishes of Ongar and Greensted. Work towards the strategy will involve establishing an inventory of existing trees and hedgerows. Landmark trees, hedgerows, threatened areas, for example, will all require identification. It is hoped that OWLS will take part with as many members as possible contributing. A Training Session will be held for the team.

And finally, please remember to put your own records into the OWLS Record Book

OWLS Committee:

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Rob Brooks