

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Malvern Group, 3.12.15

Question and Answer Session with Johnny Birks, Rosemary Winnall, Harry Green and John Tilt.

The Malvern Group had a lively and fascinating evening firing wildlife questions at this wonderful panel of local experts. We managed to cover the decline of butterflies in our area and the possibility of encouraging recovery, the future of wildlife in our countryside, the effects of modern agriculture, how we can help wildlife in our gardens, the scourge of pheasants, wood-pigeon migration, flailing hedges, ash dieback, pine martens, the best places to see invertebrates in Worcestershire, the evolution of wasps, the reintroduction of species, and the influence of the EU on our wildlife legislation. Astonishing that we managed to cover all that in one evening!

Our questions were answered knowledgeably and thoughtfully, and often with great humour. All four experts agreed on how important it is that we all encourage wildlife into our gardens. Suggestions included: letting the grass grow long in places, planting several trees or a hedge containing mixed species, having a pond, keeping piles of dead wood, creating gaps under fences for hedgehogs, growing the right flowers, and not having a cat!

The next meeting is Thursday January 7th at 7.30 pm in the Lyttelton Rooms, Church St, Malvern. Admission £2.50 including refreshments and non-members are welcome. Peter Garner will talk about "The Wild Plants of the Malvern Hills".

Alison Uren