

Peter Garner: The Natural Wonders of an English County.

1st February 2018

Our close neighbour Herefordshire is large and quite sparsely populated; it includes the eastern edge of the Black Mountains, farmland, orchards, rivers, woodland, meadows, nature reserves and about half of the Malvern Hills. Peter Garner has a comprehensive knowledge of the wildlife in the county and showed the Malvern Group a selection of his photographs of flora and fauna, including many stunning close-ups. Flowers included rarities like lesser twayblade and trailing bellflower, but there were also beautiful photos of common flowers like bluebells and poppies. The UK's rarest flower, the ghost orchid, was last seen in Herefordshire in 2009. Spiders, grasshoppers, dragonflies, bees, moths and butterflies were all illustrated with interesting stories about each species, for example the scarlet tiger moth is now commoner than the garden tiger, probably because of climate change. Ravens are now common, and ring ouzel and snow buntings appear in the autumn on the Black Mountains and on the Malverns, as passage migrants. There are common lizards and slow-worms, some grass snakes and a few adders. Lesser horseshoe bats roost in the old tunnel through the Malvern Hills, and other rarer species occur across the county.



Club-tailed dragonfly



Scarlet tiger moth

