

## Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Malvern Group

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and talk by Philip Seaton on Biodiversity and Conservation

On Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 the WWT Malvern Group celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Worcestershire Wildlife Trust was founded in 1968 and now manages more than 77 nature reserves, covering over 2560 acres across the county. Several volunteer Local Groups were formed later; the one in Malvern had its first committee meeting in 1976, and it has gone from strength to strength over the last 40 years. We have Indoor Meetings in the Lyttelton Rooms on the first Thursday of every month, with speakers covering a wide range of wildlife topics, and we arrange guided walks in nature reserves and day trips to places of special interest. We celebrated by taking a photo of past and present committee members around the celebration cakes, made by members.



Front row: Carol Bradley, Jayne Radcliffe, Lyn Saunders, Joy Bunyan, Pauline Ranson  
Back row: Margaret Vernon, Margaret Jupe, Neil Edwards, Christine Seymour, Ray Bishop, Brian Bradford, Phil Bunyan, Brian Dawkins (behind), Dave Cook, Brian Iles, Alison Uren.

Philip Seaton then gave a very interesting talk on Biodiversity and Conservation, with particular reference to orchids and his work for OSSSU (Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use). His message was clear: we don't know how many species there are in the world but we do know that many are fast disappearing, in fact it could be said that we humans are causing another global extinction. Unless we can maintain genetic diversity and the necessary range of habitats, we are going to lose much of the natural world as we know it today. Already many species have vanished. 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost in the UK in the last 50 years, and WWT helps to conserve a few of those left, for example the Knapp and Papermill Reserve near Alfrick. We have to hope that recommendations by the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and other conservation bodies are implemented before it is too late.

The next meeting will be held at the Lyttelton Rooms, Church Street, Malvern at 7.30pm on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hannah Thomas will talk about the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Alison Uren