

WWT Malvern Group 5.3.15

Jason Curtis: Wildlife on your Doorstep



Tawny Owl



Pearl bordered fritillary

Wildlife Photography is not an occupation for the faint-hearted! Jason Curtis gave us graphic descriptions of the patience, eternal optimism, and willingness to suffer, which it takes to obtain really good wildlife photographs. He has sat in cold bird-hides all day without moving, losing all sensation in his legs. He has stood motionless in rivers for hours, waiting for that perfect picture of a duck. He has been up at 5.00 a.m. to photograph butterflies before they become active, and all night to take pictures of owls. It took him 120 hours of patient watching, including rebuilding a hide which got washed away, to capture one good photo of a kingfisher.

Jason has amassed a wonderful portfolio of photos, all of local and familiar species. There was a robin, a blackbird in the snow, a goldfinch challenging a rival, a barn owl with a mouse. Brown hares, a fallow deer, two grey squirrels, and some baby rabbits appeared. There was a toad, a lizard, an adder, and then some butterflies – notably the pearl-bordered fritillary, the flagship species of the Wyre Forest, where Jason lives. The most stunning photograph was the tawny owl, perched between two branches of a tree.

A second-hand book stall at the meeting raised over £40 for the Blackhouse Wood Appeal.

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on April 2nd, in the Lyttelton Rooms in Church Street. Roger Umpelby will talk about “Butterflies in Britain”.

Alison Uren