

Ian Butler: Walking the Malverns in Search of Wildlife November 2018

Here in Malvern we are extraordinarily fortunate to live next to the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The hills are enjoyed by over 1 million visitors a year, and are carefully managed by the Malvern Hills Trust, who have owned most of the land since 1884. Ian Butler, a world-renowned wildlife photographer, has walked the Hills for many years photographing the flora and fauna which live here, and we were treated to a stunning display of photos together with much interesting information.

Pictures of the amazing displays of bluebells were shown, and also some of the more unusual plants like the green-winged orchids outside the village hall in Welland. Ian delights in the common birds just as much as the rarer ones – we saw meadow pipits, house martins, stonechats, skylarks, a yellowhammer and a grasshopper warbler, to name but a few. There were interesting shots of some of our migrant visitors, like ring ouzels, snow buntings and Lapland buntings. Sadly some species are no longer seen in our area – the red-backed shrikes, circl buntings and turtle doves – casualties of habitat loss and climate change. Butterflies include small heath, comma, silver-washed fritillary and the grayling, a rarity which lives on North Hill. Badgers, foxes, deer, at least nine species of bat and a few dormice occur on the hills and there are some well-hidden reptiles amongst the bracken.



House martins over the hills. Ian Butler

