

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Malvern Group

Thursday 3rd October 2019

Alison Uren (Chair of Malvern Group)

An Orchid Odyssey

Alison is passionate about orchids. Since first encountering an Early Purple orchid 40 years ago, she has tracked down and photographed as many of the 56 species found in Britain and Ireland as she can. She took us on an orchid tour of the British Isles accompanied by splendid close-up photographs. In Kent, a bank overlooking the Channel Tunnel terminal grows Man orchids and Late Spider orchids, the Burren in Ireland has rare Dense-flowered orchids, Irish Marsh orchids and Fly orchids, while in Shetland there are Northern Marsh orchids, Lesser Twayblades and Frog orchids. Orchids grow on unfertilised soils and rely on Mycorrhizal fungi for nutrients. As 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost, many species are on the IUCN Red Data list of endangered species, and conservationists work hard to protect the species on their patches. In the Malvern area we are fortunate to have 13 orchid species – sites such as Poolbrook Common (Common spotted and Southern Marsh orchids below), Welland Village Green and the Knapp and Papermill Reserve are resplendent with orchids in June. Alison still has 15 species to find!

