

## Talk at Indoor Meeting April 2022

This month we had a fascinating talk by Gerry Davies on the local flora of Malvern area. A keen botanist, Gerry has been walking, running and cycling around the area for 45 years observing and recording what he has seen and where he saw it. From the Shepherds Cress and Annual Knawel to be seen on the crest of the Malvern Hills to Lousewort and Marsh Speedwell found on Castlemorton Common Gerry knows where they can be found.

Born in Leicester, he moved to Malvern in the 1970's working in local government as an Environmental Protection Officer before moving to the West Malvern Field Centre, now the Outdoor Centre. From here would take groups of students out to study the local flora. He later taught evening classes for the University of Birmingham Department of Extra Mural Studies. The wide range of the local geology there was always a wide range of habitat types. Local meadows such as Six Acre Meadow has been a favourite site to visit with Adder's tongue fern and Greater Butterfly Orchid but the site is now being invaded by unwanted scrub like Hawthorn and Dog Rose.

Not all plant names are easy to remember or understand. Gerry recalled how one student who had been out surveying the woodland flora had seen Wood Anemones and had recorded 'Wooden enemies'.

Orchids are one of Gerry's favourite plant families. Many happy hours have been spent on Poolbrook Common recording the Common Spotted, Heath Spotted and Southern Marsh Orchids which are all members of the Dactylorhiza family and can cross with each other to produce hybrids which makes recording difficult. A recent interest has been walking around the arable fields near his home recording the once common but now rare cornfield annuals such as Small Toadflax, Corn Spurrey and Sharp Leaved Fluellen. Gerry is very knowledgeable about wildlife in general and flora in particular and every walk will reveal much of interest. A walk in the countryside will never be the same again.



A rare bee orchid



Botany group on the Malvern Hills



Foxgloves return after a massive hill fire

Gerry will be leading a walk on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

To book a place please contact [malverngroup@live.co.uk](mailto:malverngroup@live.co.uk)