

## Indoor Talks Programme

2024/5	Speaker	Title of Presentation and Summary
5/9/24	Dr Kate Ashbrook	<p><b>Sustainable Food Production</b></p> <p>Dr Kate Ashbrook is a senior lecturer in Biological Sciences at the University of Worcester. Her research investigates how ecological systems work to inform the management of conservation projects.</p> <p>Enhancing biodiversity in food production areas improves pollination, pest control, and nutrient cycling. This talk will present an overview of research into improving biodiversity in fruit production systems at the University of Worcester, along with practical tips for gardens and allotments.</p>
3/10/24	Jean Young	<p><b>Discoveries on the Doorstep – Unseen, Unloved and Underappreciated</b></p> <p>Jean Young is a local naturalist with a special interest and ever-increasing expertise in invertebrates. While spending time rummaging in the garden Jean is constantly amazed by the variety of invertebrate life that she finds and the fascinating interactions that she sees between them. Our gardens are full of life and it tends to be the more attractive insects, for example, butterflies and dragonflies that we notice. Jean will give an insight into what some of the less appreciated creatures get up to as they all have a valuable part to play in the ecosystem.</p>
7/11/24	Chantal Lyons	<p><b>The return of Britain's wild boar</b></p> <p>After centuries of absence, wild boar are back in Britain. What does this mean for us – and them?</p> <p>Author Chantal Lyons seeks to answer this question in her book <i>Groundbreakers: The Return of Britain's Wild Boar</i>, published by Bloomsbury in February 2024. The book was sparked when she first came to the Forest of Dean in 2014 to interview residents about their experiences of coexisting with wild boar. Years later, she moved to the Forest to immerse herself in the world of the boar, to find out what the future could hold for the species in the UK.</p>

<b>5/12/24</b>	<b>Helen Mugridge</b>	<p><b>Wildlife of Finland</b></p> <p>Helen and Philip Mugridge are a wife and husband accredited photography team based in the Forest of Dean. They have travelled extensively observing and photographing wildlife and the landscape in which they live. They have found Finland a fantastic location and this talk covers all the seasons and a huge range of species and even some stunning northern lights. Helen will also recount the often hilarious experiences they have had working with their Finnish counterparts to obtain these images.</p>
<b>16/1/25</b>	<b>Eden Tanner</b>	<p><b>Just Scratching the Surface (Parasites)</b></p> <p>Eden Tanner is a retired veterinary surgeon with a keen life-long interest in natural history. He is Chairperson of the Ledbury Naturalist Society and an accomplished photographer of 'all things to do with Nature'. Eden's illustrated talk will be based on his experiences as a vet and his observations in the wild. He describes it as being fascinating but not for the faint hearted!</p>
<b>6/2/25</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<p><b>The Work of the Vale Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre, Tewkesbury</b></p> <p>The hospital treats over 7,500 casualties a year and is staffed 24/7 for emergency admissions. Its running costs are over £2,300 every day which comes from public donations. The vast majority of the injuries have been caused by the animals coming into contact with humans. The casualties include mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. The presentation will include how the Vale Hospital began in 1984, the casualties treated and injuries commonly seen, the facilities within the hospital and how funds are raised.</p>
<b>6/3/25</b>	<b>Gordon Forrest</b>	<p><b>The Birds and History of Upton Warren</b></p> <p>Gordon is a wildlife photographer, presenter and the author of several books including two books of poetry. Also a keen birdwatcher, Gordon will discuss the wonders of the Christopher Cadbury Wetland Reserve at Upton Warren, Droitwich. This reserve is managed by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and includes freshwater and saltwater pools which provide the habitats for a diverse range of wildlife.</p>
<b>3/4/25</b>	<b>Philip Seaton</b>	<p><b>Saving Orchids: Species Survival in a Changing World</b></p> <p>Philip is a retired biology lecturer who has written a number of books for Kew Gardens about growing orchids and orchid conservation. He has been Project Manager for Orchid</p>

		Seed Stores for Sustainable Use based at the Millennium Seed Bank and runs a voluntary orchid micropropagation laboratory at a school in Kidderminster. His presentation will include positive orchid conservation stories from around the world - including the UK.
<b>1/5/25</b>	<b>Dominique Cragg</b>	<p><b>The Mammals of Worcestershire</b></p> <p>Dominique is the Western Reserves Officer of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, responsible for the management for the Trust's western reserves including Trench Wood, Monkwood and our local reserve, The Knapp and Papermill. She is also Co-Chairperson of the Worcestershire Mammal Group which was established to raise the profile of our county's mammals through learning and recording and so promote their conservation. Dominique will share what she has learnt about our Worcestershire mammals through her role with the WWT.</p>