

2018

- 1st Oct. Our first speaker on this winter programme is AMANDA MILLAR who has been interested in bats since she moved to Hurstpierpoint 35 years ago. For the last 15 years she has rescued bats and taken in an increasing number of pups and juveniles from surrounding counties which she rehabilitates prior to release; being the main bat rehabilitation centre in Sussex and the SE. Bats which cannot be released because the injuries they have sustained have affected their flying, are looked after at her home for the rest of their long lives. She now has about 50 long-term residents of 8 species.
This illustrated talk "**Working with bats**" will include looking at a range of different bats from around the world; their importance in the environment, the hazards they face, and how they are looked after and released back into the wild. Amanda will bring some species for people to look at. She is the Chairman of the Sussex Bat Group. Her other interests include beekeeping and she is the President of the Sussex Beekeepers' Association.
(Chairman Roger Patterson)
- 8th Oct. MIKE WHITTLE is making his first visit to HNHS this evening. The title of his presentation is "**Sun and Moon, Time and Tide**". The tides are caused by the gravity of the moon, pulling on the seawater. There is only one moon, yet there are two high tides a day. The height of the tides varies from day to day, over a two week cycle, and is greater at some times of year than others. The coast of Britain has significant tides; the Mediterranean hardly any. The sun's gravity is 180 times greater than that of the moon, at the surface of the earth, yet the influence of the moon on the tides is more than double that of the sun. The moon and sun cross the sky from east to west, yet the time of high tide moves along the English Channel coast from west to east. These and related questions will be explored.
(Chairman Josie Allen)
- 15th Oct. ROGER MASON is a long time HNHS member with a vast knowledge of all aspects of natural history. He is a regular speaker on our winter programme and never fails to educate and enthuse the audience. Not only does he explain his subject well, his photography more than adequately illustrates the topic. "**The Scottish Highlands in May**" will start with a brief look at the geology to the North and South of the Great Glen, followed by a mix of wildlife and scenery.
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 22nd Oct. Throughout PHIL DARLEY'S career as a teacher in Primary schools, she had always taken a keen interest in the natural world around her, so now retired, she can follow her interests of bird watching, walking, gardening and more recently being a butterfly transect recorder for an important part of nearby Chiddingfold Forest – Oaken Wood Reserve.
Little did she realise when she took on this role, the importance nationally of this small reserve leased from the Forestry Commission and managed by Butterfly Conversation. It is home to one of Britain's rare and endangered butterflies - the Wood White as well as being home to some nearly extinct moths.
For three years now Phil has been monitoring and recording all the number of butterflies found in Oaken Wood as well as helping during the winter months to maintain the habitat for these beautiful and diverse butterflies. Within the wood itself, is a variety of different habitats with many birds, reptiles, flowers and insects – well worth a visit whatever your interest may be! In "**Life of a butterfly transect walker**", Phil will tell us about her experiences.
(Chairman Josie Allen)
- 29th Oct. HNHS member GRAHAM MATTHEWS has a background as a pharmaceutical scientist, now working as a civil servant, but his interests are much wider ranging, including military modelling, oriental art, amateur radio and of course microscopy and natural history. On several occasions Graham has shown us what he sees down his microscopes and this evening he will show us more in "**Green Living**".
Graham admits to having far too many microscopes and enjoying exploring the natural world with them and encouraging others to do so too. He is a member and past secretary of the Quekett Microscopical Club, a committee member of the Friends of Warnham Local Nature Reserve and also editor of their newsletter, The Reedbed.
(Chairman Roger Mason)
- 5th Nov. This evenings speaker CLARE BLENCOWE has been Manager of the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) since July 2015. Prior to that she spent 7 years with the Environment Agency (latterly on secondment to Defra), working in a variety of strategic environmental planning and policy roles.

After completing a Masters in Environmental Monitoring and Modelling, Clare first got seriously involved in wildlife recording as a volunteer with the Sussex branch of Butterfly Conservation, coordinating recording efforts for a new county atlas: "[The Butterflies of Sussex](#)". More recently she has discovered a fascination with fungi and writes a blog about her forays into the world of mycology: [misidentifyingfungi.blogspot.com](#).

Sussex is fortunate to have an extraordinarily active and self-organising community of wildlife recording groups and naturalists who, over the years, have generated enormous amounts of information about this wonderful county of ours.

Sussex's naturalists are out every day of the year recording the county's flora, fauna and fungi.

There are a multitude of different ways that you can get involved in surveying sites and monitoring species – whether it's out and about with one of Sussex's many recording groups & societies or at home; with your notebook or your smartphone.

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre exists to capture all of this information and make it available to people who need it, whether that's an ecologist undertaking a site survey; a planning officer looking at a planning application; a parish councillor working on a neighbourhood plan; a landowner developing a management plan for their site; or an interested member of the public.

In her talk "**Making nature count: Wildlife recording in Sussex and the work of Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre**", Clare will bring us tales from the Sussex biological recording community and provide an insight to the work of the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: making nature count.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

- 12th Nov. Annual General Meeting. This will be followed by a presentation by several HNHS members. The title is "**My interest in Natural History and what started it**". We all have different reasons for being interested in natural history and for starting that interest. Some have lived with it all their lives, others have discovered it later in life. Some have become specialists, others generalists. Each presenter will spend 10-15 minutes with or without visual aids. If you are willing to make a contribution please see Roger Patterson.
(Chairman Roger Patterson)
- 19th Nov. SARAH WARD is the Living Seas Officer for Sussex Wildlife Trust. 'Living Seas' is a national vision of The Wildlife Trusts, working towards a healthy future for our marine environment so it can be used and enjoyed by all. "**Sussex Living Seas**" will cover the weird and wonderful habitats and creatures we find on our coasts and in our local seas, what is being done to help protect and maintain them, and what Sussex Wildlife Trust's role in this is.
(Chairman Josie Allen)
- 26th Nov. HNHS member JOHN RICHARDSON has the ability to give talks about places we would like to visit, but probably never will. His main interest is in birds, but he always manages to include other subjects. This evening he has chosen the title "**Alaska: Big and Beautiful**". John has made four visits at different times of the year and will tell us something about the history, population and natural history.
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 3rd Dec. This presentation transfers the viewer miles away from any human habitation - to the middle of nowhere — where GILLIAN LLOYD has encountered a spectacular and truly unique experience she will share with us in "**Walking with Polar Bears**". The presentation, accompanied by images, provides information and facts on the area of the Western Hudson Bay, Manitoba, Canada; its landscape and arctic wildlife including of course Polar Bears.
(Chairman Roger Patterson)
- 10th Dec. Countryside Ranger SIMON ROWLEDGE will present this illustrated talk on the day to day management of Buchan Country Park. "**Buchan Country Park – Managing the Changes**" will cover the challenges faced by rangers balancing the needs of the wildlife that calls it home and the visitors who come to enjoy it.
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 17th Dec. **Christmas Party** to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Horsham Natural History Society.

- 7th Jan. BERNIE FORBES started bird watching at thirteen when he joined the Shoreham Ornithological Society and soon after the Sussex OS. He has been leading Sussex and Shoreham bird walks since the 70's and has been a Bird Guide for 10years, leading tours to many of the exciting birding locations in Europe, North Africa, the US and Scotland.
Bernie's title this evening is "**Lesvos a Kaleidoscope of Colour**". Lesvos lies a few kilometres from the mainland of Turkey in the Aegean sea. A unique island that offers much to any naturalist, with many varied habitats that are rich in flora and fauna. Compared to many of the Greek holiday destinations there are no sprawling developments, only low rise hotels, making it the ideal destination for the discerning traveller interested in nature. Due to it's geographical position it attracts vast numbers of birds that stop over to feed on their migration north, as well as having many breeding birds that are difficult to find in other parts of Europe, thus making this a prime birding location.
(Chairman Josie Allen)
- 14th Jan. This evening we welcome JONATHAN SIMONS for his first visit to HNHS to speak about "**Fascinating Fungi**". He was born and brought up on the Isle of Wight where he first started to appreciate the natural world and to attempt to identify what he saw. Fully qualified as a teacher in 1973, Jonathan moved to West Sussex and started teaching mathematics at what was then Collyer's Grammar School for Boys in Horsham. He lived at West Grinstead and over the following years was very delighted to find so much to interest him in the local flora. He made many private records over the years and did pass the pick of them on to local coordinators, but he never actually joined any natural history society or went much beyond a naïve enthusiasm for the subject. Jonathan recently moved to Graffham near Petworth where the fungi at his back door have proved much richer than at West Grinstead. Now in semi-retirement he has dared to join the West Weald Fungus Recording Group. Their depth of knowledge is humbling.
(Chairman Roger Mason)
- 21st Jan. "**I haven't decided yet!**" might appear to be a strange title for a talk, but the danger of planning a talk well in advance is that the planned project doesn't always work out as anticipated. There were however lots of interesting natural history high spots in the year 2018 for JOSIE ALLEN, with visits to Knepp, the Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire nature reserves, and lots of other places where nature can be observed. Josie has been a member of HNHS since 2009 and has never disappointed us with her presentations, often based on visits to interesting places at different times of the year in the company of others.
(Chairman Roger Patterson)
- 28th Jan. BRUCE MIDDLETON is well known to HNHS members having had 25 years working professionally in Sussex looking after the environment with West Sussex County Council, Sussex Downs Conservation Board, South Downs Joint Committee and the South Downs National Park Authority. He has recently set himself up as an ecologist continuing his work in Sussex but has also taken up leading nature tours abroad. Crete is a recent tour that Bruce has led and would like to share his discoveries with us in "**The Natural History of Crete**".
Crete is the largest of some six thousand islands that belong to Greece. It is a miniature continent including mountain ranges, a hundred gorges, sandy beaches, olive groves, rocky phrygana, wetlands, cereal fields and vine yards. The island hosts around 2000 wild plants and ten percent of them are endemic. It is a very good place to see many interesting resident birds as well as migrating birds in the spring and autumn.
Crete has a rich history including a landscape partly formed by tectonic plate movement, extinct pigmy mammals, the birth place of the Greek god Zeus and is believed to be where Europe's civilisation began.
The talk will be about the rich mix of wildlife with a splattering of history.
(Chairman Roger Patterson)
- 4th Feb. ANGELA SEXTON, who has been a member for 30 years and Newsletter Editor for 20, will tonight be showing us the places she and Nick have visited throughout the year in "**The Scillies and more**". Starting with a visit to the Scillies Isles then The Isle of Wight, Majorca, Norfolk and perhaps other places of Natural History interest.
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 11th Feb. HNHS member SU REED has presented some interesting lectures, often with unusual topics, but always well illustrated. Her title this evening is "**Churchyards and Verges, Unlikely Nature Reserves- Part2**", which takes a seasonal look at some churchyards and roadside verges, and

the wonderful wildlife that can be found there". It is an extension of the presentation she gave us last winter.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

- 18th Feb. This evening we will see the 10th episode of **"The Two Rogers"** which has become a firm favourite in our winter programme. As usual ROGER MASON and ROGER PATTERSON will show us what was seen and photographed by a number of members on the summer 2018 "Field Meetings". Roger Mason will describe what was found, as well as previously identifying the species on the slides, which is not an easy task. The illustrations are chosen and assembled by Roger Patterson from those that were captured and supplied by the attendees. The theme was the rivers Arun and Adur where our walks were based.
(Chairman Josie Allen)
- 25th Feb. The **"Members Evening"** is an annual feature where several members make a short presentation of around 10-15 minutes. This could be on any natural history related subject and in any format. It gives members an opportunity to make a presentation on a subject of their own choice that is too short for a full lecture. This event usually shows some surprises with a wide variety of topics. The entertainment value is often quite high! The change of format and equipment on the night is often quite entertaining too!
If you would like to share your interest with us please contact Roger Patterson, before you get your arm twisted!
(Chairman Su Reed)
- 4th March. HNHS member TIM THOMAS has chosen **"Birds of the Long White Cloud: Some birds of New Zealand and observations on their conservation."** for his title this evening. This presentation is a short commentary on two visits to NZ, both primarily as holiday with no intention of "special" birding trips. Tim will give an insight to some of the interesting and diverse species making up his bird list. During the trips he couldn't help being intrigued by the diverse and often ingenious efforts made by the government conservation agency to control many of the introduced ground predators. These measures have significant conservation benefits and have led to many vulnerable species coming back from the edge of extinction
(Chairman Roger Mason)
- 11th March. HNHS President and Winter Meeting Secretary ROGER PATTERSON will close the 2018/19 programme with **"A Few Observations of Sussex"**. Roger was born and brought up in the area and has lived and worked there all his life. An engineer by trade, he has always been involved with the land in varying ways. As well as being a well known beekeeper, Roger has been involved with farming, fruit growing, hedge laying, coppicing, timber cutting, etc. When time allows he likes to walk local public footpaths in the company of his dogs and anyone else who doesn't mind stopping to look at or photograph something. He has had a lifetime close to nature, where his keen eye is often able to spot something different that others may not see. As well as nature this talk will probably cover a few of the people and places that are part of the county.
(Chairman Josie Allen)