

Meeting notes for Wednesday July 16th, 2018. S Mitchell

Chair – Senior Vice Mr Bill Gidley esq

Members- 34 I think but everyone kept moving about!

Visitors- A warm welcome was given to our speakers Andy Lester and Fiona Wilkinson.

Grace- Mike Kelly,

Speaker- WE had two this week with Andy taking the lead and Fiona giving enthusiastic support. Andy has spoken to us before on all things on the natural environment and he didn't disappoint this time.

What a lot of info thrust upon us in an interesting and informative way. Andy is a good speaker, putting over his views on what's happening to our world of flora and fauna, especially a round Hampshire. He even managed to include a quick history of Hampshire itself, where Hampton was our first real settlement finally ending up as Southampton. South and North versions are often near each other, but Northampton is hours away especially thousands of years ago! But I digress, as usual.

He painted a mixed picture of the natural environment, with real concerns about how parts of our world are struggling under modern pressures and species are having to work hard to adapt to new threats. It made worrying listening at times. But he showed how quickly species can adapt to new situations and thrive and where new one's shoulder aside old ones. It seemed a real battle at times. Even Zika virus might be just across the channel soon.

He was soon challenging us on how we contribute to this change, especially locally and how we make threats worse. He set out the 5 worst, so take note; counting down, 5th Climate change, surprising as its on everyone's lips; 4th Dog walkers not the dogs, as uncollected waste changes the 'ph' value of soils; 3rd Roe deer, eat everything; 2nd Pollution of waterways; 1st House building. Is all lost when builders put in plastic grass where it's too shady for the real thing?

Then he set us a challenge about what we personally can do to turn the tide. Don't bury your head about issues. Counting down again, 5th spend more time outside I did that today and did my 10000steps, hurrah!!; 4th turn off your country side 'app' and experience the real thing. 3rd campaign, make a noise about what matters; 2nd Get up close and personal with nature, but not too close some of it, remember deadly nightshade. Number 1, you'll have to wait I'm afraid

So, this is where Fiona came into her own as she talked with great enthusiasm about her Wolffields Urban Wild Space project in London which is a sensory garden mainly for children, but everyone was welcome. She was working to Inspire young people so that they will in turn inspire everyone else including their teachers to 'get up close' with their surroundings. And take note of the above Oh, and number one? so back to Andy who finished with -Get involved locally, be inspired and use your expertise because nature is not now about come and go, its sadly about going, we need to grasp the nettle (no pun intended) change is now explosive. David Sutton gave a vote of thanks for very thought-provoking evening and felt the overall picture sounded bleak at times, with some victories, a real wakeup call

Other items

Trying to get this on one page, Andrew is now looking after club Face book page. So, two lines and a photo from everyone. -The shed was finally erected in the allotments even though the gate was bolted shut, -Clive reported that the semifinals of the skittles was very close, but we prevailed. I think the final is in Russia. -John said that sadly Michael Baker had a fall but would be cheered by some visitors.- John G advertised the Bat Survey next Monday night oops!! that's tonight, just as your correspondent writes this missive.- Tony A asked for Marshalls for the Romsey Show on 8th Sept. Its proposed that when Waitrose manager comes to talk to club on 15th August partners should be invited.

Next meeting;

Breakfast meeting Cromwell Arms 25th at 745am for 8am