

Wildlife Group AGM



The AGM will be held on Monday November 18th, 19:00 for 19:30, at All Saints Church Annex. All welcome, members and non-members alike.

I've been looking back over the group's records. The first AGM, in 2009, enjoyed an illustrated talk on bats by our very own Tony Hutson. In more recent years we've had talks about Dragonflies and Damselflies, the Bevern Stream, Short-haired Bumble bees and Plumpton College's Ecological Strategy. This year we are very pleased to welcome Kim Dawson, Community Ranger with Lewes District Council and a licensed dormouse handler, to talk about dormice, surely one of the UK's favourite wildlife species. It will be of particular interest because she has helped us with dormouse surveys in the parishes.

We'll also be launching 'Woodlands in Plumpton Parish', a full colour 74-page report of the woodland surveys we carried out between 2014-2016 to compare with a 1986 survey. The surveys involved 16 members of our community in spring and summer weekends over the two years (not everyone participated in every survey) and they were made possible through the generosity of woodland owners who allowed us access. Printing costs have been part-funded by the Parish Council, for which we are very grateful, and which will enable us to sell the booklet at cost price.

Last but not least, we'll be announcing the winner of our first ever photo competition. You can see the entries on our website:

<https://plumptonwildlifegroup.weebly.com/photo-competition.html>

We're changing the format of the AGM this year. You'll be welcomed with a glass of wine (or a soft drink) and some nibbles before we hold the very brief 'business' part of the AGM, and then the guest speaker's talk. Our chair, Jacqui Hutson, and I, as secretary, will be standing down after three years in these roles. We do have a new chair and secretary lined up, but we would love to have some new members on the committee. If you would like to be nominated, please contact me at plumptonwildlife@gmail.com. You don't need any particular expertise, just enthusiasm for our local wildlife.

The current committee has started to think about activities and events for next year. As well as the ever-popular Nightingale Walk we are planning a presentation about Plumpton's Big Trees, a pub quiz, a visit to the Knepp Estate, a visit to a local wildflower meadow, a dawn chorus walk, and a bat blitz. If there is sufficient interest we will also sign up for The Great British Hedgerow Survey which is currently being organised nationally by the People's Trust for Endangered Species. It would be a good opportunity to learn to identify the plants that grow in our hedgerows.

Kate Gold