

Programme of events: January to March 2025

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JANUARY			
BNSS is closed until 6th January			
Tuesday 7th January 7:30pm	Zoom	Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern Madagascar <i>Speaker: Jonathan McGowan</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> James Dovey
<p>Madagascar is one of earth's largest islands and is also one of the most biodiverse. Thousands of endemic creatures found nowhere else can be seen, with many new species added to the growing lists every year. Renowned for its huge array of frogs, lizards, and snakes, I will show many of these rainforest dwelling species that my companions and I found during the 2014 BNSS expedition. Including Chameleons, Geckos, tree frogs, colubrid snakes, boas, tortoises and a few invertebrates for good measure!</p>			
Saturday 11th January 10.00-12.30	Young Explorers	Chemistry for Beginners	<i>Leader</i> Steve Limburn
Saturday 11th January 2.30pm	In house Zoom	The Royal Art of Poisoning - Deadly Cosmetics, Medicines & Murder Most Foul <i>Speaker: Bill Coombes</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> Robin Hewitt
<p>The talk by Bill will cover the following topics: How Poisons were/are used to kill people. The toxic cosmetics that people used to use. The "medicines" that did more damage than cure. A poison that people use by choice that kills millions of people around the world. The deadly plants that live in our gardens and countryside and how they affect people. The talk finishes with details of some of the poisons and toxins that we eat or use in our houses today.</p>			
Tuesday 14th January 7:30pm	Zoom	Using IT to make wildlife trails more interesting and accessible - Augmented Wildlife Experiences (AWE) trails to support nature connection <i>Speakers:</i> Amanda Korstjens & Anastasia Vayona	<i>Chairman:</i> Margaret Ross
<p>Amanda Korstjens and Anastasia Vayona from Bournemouth University will describe using online materials to especially help young people to see the beauty of their local environment and immerse them more in nature than they may during a standard walk. In addition, these trails could be set up specifically for people who are unable to walk such trails themselves. Also, we will discuss the trials and errors of setting up our first trail at Holton Lee, that is on private land with restricted access, whereas the new trails will be on public land hence different problems.</p>			
Tuesday 21st January 7:30pm	In house Zoom	BCP council and Nature Recovery <i>Speaker: Martin Whitchurch</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> Sally Grant
<p>Martin Whitchurch, Strategic Lead for Greenspace & Conservation for BCP Council will describe his work across our greenspaces, creation of 'Green Heart parks', the benefits of activating community green spaces, and urban greening that help to prepare us for future climate changes. The writing of a Green Infrastructure strategy and related work to turn our urban areas from grey to green; as well as working in partnership across our spaces. This has been recognised as actions that could be followed by other Councils and their partners and led to a nomination for a 'Rising Star' award for Local Authorities, hosted by the Local Government Chronicle (LGC)</p>			
Tuesday 28th January 7.30pm	Zoom	The Medical Work of Mercy Ships charity <i>Speaker: tba</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> Robin Hewitt
<p>The Mercy Ships charity currently operates two hospital ships around Sub-Saharan Africa to provide free healthcare in areas where affordable and timely surgery is extremely limited. They provide world class volunteer professionals directly to places where they are most needed and have worked in over 55 countries. The charity also works to strengthen each country's' healthcare system by training local medical staff and renovating hospitals and clinics. The talk will describe the surgeons and crew, medical facilities and the teaching resources available on the ships.</p>			

		FEBRUARY	
Tuesday 4th February 7:30pm	Zoom	Minerals from the Bible <i>Speaker: Gary Morse</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> Jacque Bainbridge
	The mineralogy in the bible has had a lot of interpretation and much was lost in translation from ancient Hebrew to Greek to English. The ancients called anything red, ruby, and any coloured lumps carbuncles. There are still no real answers but what there is is very interesting. The talk is based on the 1911 British Museum exhibition of animals, plants and minerals mentioned in the Bible.		
Saturday 8th February 10.00-12.30pm	Young Explorers	Nature Art Journalling <i>With Dorothy Gill</i>	<i>Chairman</i> Steve Limburn
	Please bring a pencil, rubber and ruler. And find and bring three/four objects found in either garden, forest or seashore.		
Saturday 8th February 2.30pm	In house Zoom	Lantern Slides and Rabbit Holes <i>Speaker: Tony Grant</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> Robin Hewitt
	Tony will talk about the BNSS slide project and the talk will include the following topics: How and why lantern slides were used during the early 20th Century? What is in our Lantern slide collection, and to a smaller extent some of our 35mm collection? What we have digitised and what is available for members to view on request? Rabbit Holes? Well, you will have to attend the talk to find out!		
Tuesday 11th February 7:30pm	In house Zoom	The 88 Constellations <i>Speaker: Kate Earl</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> James Fradgley
	Humans have seen patterns in the stars for thousands of years. Reflecting what was most important or relevant to people at the time, the constellations, along with cave paintings, effectively formed the first writing, a way of passing down information from generation to generation. But how did we end up with arrow-wielding centaurs and half goat-half fish creatures presiding in the sky? In this talk we look at the history of the constellations and why we now have 88 immortalised in the heavens.		
Tuesday 18th February 7:30pm	Zoom	Who are we and where do we come from? <i>Speaker: Francis Taylor</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> Jo Crane
	This talk is an attempt to answer the questions "Who are we?" and "Where do we come from?" by going on a journey of nearly a million years looking at the ancestry of Homo Sapiens and culminating in the ancestry of the population of the British Isles. This is not just a historical journey but also a genetic journey investigating our origins based on recent work studying ancient DNA which can tell us information about our origins that no amount of skilful archaeology could ever deduce.		
Tuesday 25th February 7:30pm	Zoom	Birds and Wildlife in Northern Hampshire <i>Speaker: Andrew Cleave</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> James Dovey
	Andrew Cleave MBE takes us through his local patch and the surprising range of wildlife habitats found there. These include ancient woodland, heathland, chalk downland and streams, fens and the urban environment. Andrew is a keen photographer, so we'll get to see iconic species like the Dormouse, Purple Emperor Butterfly and Nightingale - and less familiar creatures as well.		

		MARCH	
Tuesday 4th March 7.30pm	Zoom	Recycle your electricals, and the Use of AI to Detect, Visualise and Extract e-waste <i>Speaker: Scott Butler and Jonathan Bowl</i>	<i>Chairman</i> Margaret Ross
	This session will look at emerging trends of e-waste: disposable vapes, plugs cables, forgotten mobile phones card readers, game consoles etc that contain valuable materials etc. The increasing challenges of battery related waste and the risk of fires. AI and machine learning are tools to address these problems aiming to reduce risks to facilities, equipment and employees.		
Saturday 8th March 10.00-12.30	Young Explorers	Astronomy <i>Speaker: Kate Earl</i>	<i>Leader</i> Steve Limburn
Saturday 8th March 2.30pm	In house Zoom	Upton Country Park - A History & New Discoveries <i>Speakers: Sally Grant and Nick Woods</i>	<i>Chairman</i> James Dovey
	Romans, Georgian Merchants and Scandalous Victorians Volunteer Researchers Sally Grant & Nick Woods will give a talk about their research projects; using maps to trace how the Estate has developed since the 1600s and featuring new finds discovered within the Llewelin diaries, letters and other documents.		

British National Science Week			
Tuesday 11th March 7:30pm	Zoom	What makes human cognition unique? A cross-species, developmental & cross-cultural perspective. <i>Speaker: Dr Esther Herrmann</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> Grenham Ireland
	Dr Herrmann is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Portsmouth. She investigates the roots of human cooperation and self-control through contributing to studies using children and chimpanzees in African field sites and sanctuaries.		
Saturday 15th March 2:30pm	In house Zoom	Change and Adapt - Making a success of a career in Natural Science <i>Speaker: Paul Leonard</i>	<i>Chairman</i> Grenham Ireland
	Paul Leonard FRSB, FMBA, FLS will talk about his career as an environmental scientist, working within Government, promoting scientific evidence in the UK, Europe, America, South Africa, Hong Kong & Kazakhstan, as well as working with Sir David Attenborough and advising the Science Media Centre. Paul is currently a member of the Sussex IFCA & Chairman of the Thames Natural Flood Management Working Group.		
Tuesday 18th March 7:30pm	Zoom	Return of the Peregrine <i>Speaker: Keith Betton</i>	<i>Chairman</i> James Dovey
	Keith Betton is Chair of the Hampshire Ornithological Society and a man who's keeping his eye on the birds of the world. Conservation work, with UK species, is also at the heart of what Keith does. Today we hear about his work with the Peregrine falcon in his native Hampshire and its return to Bournemouth and Poole.		
Tuesday 25th March 7.30pm	In-house Zoom	Assembly and Quiz Bill Coombes	<i>Chairman:</i>
Saturday 29th March 2.30pm	In house Zoom	Latest News on Ancient Marine Reptiles <i>Speaker: Dr Darren Naish</i>	<i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan McGowan
	<p>We're in the middle of a revolution in our understanding of the sea reptiles that lived across the planet during the so-called Age of Dinosaurs, properly termed the Mesozoic. These include the shark-shaped ichthyosaurs, the famously long-necked plesiosaurs, and those great swimming lizards the mosasaurs. New species are being discovered at a rapid rate, and new finds on their evolution, biology, behaviour and environment challenge old assumptions. The UK - the Dorset coast in particular - remains globally important in our understanding of these animals. In this talk, we look at how our ideas on ancient sea reptiles have changed, on what ancient sea reptiles were like as living animals, and on what we still hope to discover. There is still so much to learn.</p> <p>Darren Naish is an author and palaeozoologist who works on dinosaurs, ancient sea reptiles and the flying pterosaurs. He received his PhD in palaeontology from the University of Portsmouth in 2006. He has published numerous books, mostly recently Ancient Sea Reptiles (Natural History Museum, London/Smithsonian Books) and Mesozoic Art (with Steve White, published by Bloomsbury), and he blogs at Tetrapod Zoology (tetzoo.com) where he writes about all manner of zoological topics. He also works for the BBC Natural History Unit and is chief scientific consultant for the Apple TV+ series Prehistoric Planet.</p>		