



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY 50<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**

OCTOBER 1959 - OCTOBER 2009

To show how the Society has progressed, here is a selection from the hand written Minutes of the Ringwood Natural History Society since its inception in October 1959.

It is interesting to note that the Society was formed with just 7 members, which had increased to about 20 members by the end of the year.

Many trips were taken by coach. Eric Ashby gave many lectures and film shows and was made an honorary member in 1964. By November 1964 there were 45 members.

Note also the comments on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1965 detailing a visit to Eyeworth Pond and the reason why it is so called!

Bob Ball took over as Hon. Treasurer in 1968 and, at the time of writing, that was the first reference I could find of subscriptions. These were then 17/6 for couples, 10/- for singles and 5/- for juniors. Visitor fees were 16 @ 2/- and 100 @ 2/6. On investigation these large numbers were because of a film show by Eric Ashby when many members of the public attended.

By 1968 the Society had a bank balance of £3.8s.8d. Now, 50 years later, subscriptions are £10.00 and we have over 100 members with a bank balance of over £3,000.

To celebrate the success of the Society we arranged a coach trip to Barnes Wildfowl Reserve, London on October 1<sup>5\*</sup> 2009. Thanks to farmer Campbell Sampson, who agreed that cars could be parked in his field all day, the coach left Brooklands Farm, South Gorley at 9 am (the site where By-Gone-Days is held). We returned to the farm at 6 pm.

Jean Crawford

# The first meeting

Natural History Club · Oct 1959

1<sup>st</sup> meeting appointed  
President, Col. Macworth-Fraser.  
Chairman Mr. J. Wright.  
Hon Sec. Dr. Henry Wettable.  
Hon Treasurer Mrs. Bradley.

7 members in all joined.

By end of year about 20 members.

Talk given by Mr. Pope with  
slides of World Birds. B.E.N.A.

Talk with slides of Wild Flowers  
Mr & Mrs. Payne.

Jan 1960. Coach excursion to Wild Fowl  
Trust, Slimbridge

Films on Birds by Mr. Hinde & Jane Isb  
& Mrs. Lewis.

Film by Mrs Marshall Bell.

Visit to Keynack Park Heronry.

Visit to Poole Harbour.

# A coach trip to Selborne

1960 Continued  
 Visit to Keyhaven =  
 Talk by Mr. Lavender, Custer Red Has  
 on wild flowers.  
 April 28<sup>a</sup> Deer, foxes, badgers. Mr. Ashby  
 May 12<sup>a</sup> Wild Orchids, Mr. Boggart  
 May 27<sup>a</sup> Coach excursion to Selborne.  
 Various Field Days.

1960 / 61.

\* Oct 6<sup>a</sup> Annual General Meeting -  
 Officers re elected.  
 " 16<sup>a</sup> Coach excursion to Selborne.  
 Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Birds in Ireland. Mr. Hunt  
 Nov 19<sup>th</sup> "Trees" by Mrs Hunt. Slide  
 Dec. Mr. Wright on Identification of Birds  
 " Visit to Private Wild Fowl Collector  
 of Mr. Cadman's at Hambroge.  
 \* Sub-committee formed. Mrs. Bradley,  
 Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. Broaden, Mr. Wright &  
 a 8th

# A visit to Slimbridge

- Jan 7<sup>th</sup> Excursion to Radepole Lake .
- " 12<sup>th</sup> " New Forest Laws & Customs"  
Sir Berkeley Pigott.
- " 28<sup>th</sup> " "Bird Song". Recordings  
Miss Haines .
- Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Slimbridge .
- " 25<sup>th</sup> Slides . Specimens  
Col. Keenwell Road .
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Film  
Buryards, & N. F. animals .  
Dartford warbler . The Ashby
- March 25<sup>th</sup> " " " " " "  
Talk & exhibit "Fossils etc"
- March 19<sup>th</sup> ~~Car~~ <sup>Car</sup> excursion to  
Auebury .
- April 15<sup>th</sup> weekend at New Bird  
Observatory - Portland .