

The plight of the bumble bee



Dr Nikki Gammans' talk about the different species of bees, their life cycles and the threats that they face in a rapidly changing environment was a tour de force.

Members at the September monthly meeting were fascinated to hear about the differences between solitary bees, honey bees and bumblebees and how we can help them flourish by planting bee friendly plants in our gardens.

Nikki also spoke about the project she is running to attempt to reintroduce the Short-haired bumblebee that was last recorded in Dungeness in 1988. Through cooperation with local farmers and landowners changing the environment and with Sweden – the only country in Europe with an expanding Short-haired bumblebee population, she is hoping that her project will be the first successful reintroduction in the world.

Nikki works with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and mentioned that some U3As have Bee Groups and take part in bee walk surveys contributing data to the national picture of the bee population.

If you are interested to learn more here are some links:

Bumblebee Conservation Trust - bumblebeeconservation.org

Bee Walk Survey Scheme - beewalk.org.uk

Pat Cockett September 2018