

**Come and enjoy some of Surrey's special wildlife opportunities!**  
**Natural History 2 group's visit to British Wildlife Centre**

Members of the Reigate and Redhill U3A's Natural History 2 group had a special wildlife outing for their March meeting with a private visit to the British Wildlife Centre near Lingfield.



One of the highlights was being taken round the Centre and shown all the conservation work being undertaken there by keeper Izzy Coomber, seen here with her favourite Little Owl, Fagin. Before that we met owner David Mills, who set up the Centre some thirty years ago. They work particularly with Red Squirrels, Otters, Scottish Wildcat and Harvest Mice, helping to maintain the purity of the species and reintroduce them to the wild. But the British Wildlife Centre also has most of the UK's native mammals, including Weasels, Pine Martins, Polecats, Foxes, Badgers, Roe, Fallow and Red deer, plus most of our owls and other small species.

Izzy was enthusiastic, knowledgeable and entertaining and a pleasure to listen to during our visit, bringing most of the animals to meet us. It was a great afternoon and much enjoyed by all of us.

In the coming months we have visits to Priory Park's tree collection, Reigate Hill's bumblebees, and the woodlands in Felland's Copse, with experts joining us for each visit. Other meetings we go to interesting places with one of our leaders. Come and join us!

John Rennie  
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BWC keeper Izzy Coomber with Fagin, the Little Owl