

February Speaker: Ian Schulz – “Slow down and take a Closer Look”

Our February Speaker Ian Schulz, wildlife photographer, asked his audience to “Slow down and take a closer look” at the small animals, insects and birds in our gardens and the New Forest area.

Ian explained that with newer cameras, which can take faster pictures, it is possible to take very detailed photos of wildlife even at some distance with quite a modest camera, and without having to travel far to get interesting photos.

With the help of a Trail Camera, it is even possible to take infra red photos or videos at night which will reveal the animals in your garden. Ian straps his camera to a tree, and it is triggered by the movement of passing animals with amazing results.

Patience is the key to many interesting photos, and Ian has a secret spot in the New Forest where he regularly photographs Squirrels, Great Tits, Siskin, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Nuthatches. One of his tricks is to take seeds and peanuts and hide them, then wait for the birds to come to find them.

He also has a bug house in his garden which houses a Giant House Spider named Vanessa by his granddaughter. The bugs in the house can be seen and photographed by torchlight in the evenings.

Ian showed us some fascinating close-ups of ants which he took by first setting up his camera, then poking a stick directly into the nest. An ant will climb the stick to act as a lookout, and there you have your photograph.

At the beginning of his talk, Ian promised his audience that he would warn them in advance when photos of spiders would appear, but by the end he had converted us all with his marvellously detailed photos and, as he reminded us, a picture does not have to be good, it's the stories and memories that lie behind it that are important.

New Milton u3a does have a photography group, so hopefully we may see some interesting results!

If you would like more information about New Milton u3a please google us or telephone David on 01425 614141. Visitors are always welcome.