Lewtrenchard WI September Report

Barbara welcomed everyone... our speakers, one guest, one returning member and then handed over to Graham Parker, Jamie and Owl 'Nina' for an 'Owl Show and Tell'.

Graham has been going round schools, organisations etcetera for many years now, showing off the beautiful European Barn Owl 'Nina'. Nina's parents abandoned the nest of 4 eggs, Nina was the only one who hatched. Graham began to rear her and is now her 'dad'. They are both very fond of each other. Graham talked about the most common Owls we have in the UK. Nina's breed is not at all common in the UK.

Owls in order of numbers: Tawny Owl, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Long Eared Owl, Short Eared Owl, European Eagle Owl and Snowy Owl (made famous by Harry Potter). Jamie showed us photographs. The call of the Tawny Owl is the typical twit twoo you associate with owls. If you were to reply, you might be lucky and see one as they fly towards you thinking of an intruder in their territory and attempt to chase you away.

Owls have eyesight that is 8 times better than we humans. Owls with dark eyes hunt at night, yellow eyed owls hunt in the day and orange eyed owls hunt in dawn and dusk. The European Eagle Owl is large and has extremely strong claws, capable of crushing a wolf's head! Going back to Nina, she was such a happy bird, very curious and proud to show us her typically white underside, she loved being petted and held. Nina is smaller than our Barn Owls and very fluffy, 75% of her body are feathers, she is not waterproof and a somewhat fussy eater (spoilt by her dad no doubt 😊), she lives with Graham in a very big aviary but also has free run of his land. She only flies around places she is familiar with, she even has a boyfriend who brings her little treats to eat. In the wild, she might live 5 years, in captivity 15-20 years. Graham needs a licence to keep owls which costs £300/year and he is subject to yearly check-ups. Members had lots of questions for Graham & Jamie, everyone wanted to say hello to Nina and hold her. Nina and everyone had a wonderful evening.



Jamie very kindly judged our competitions and we congratulated one member on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Date & venue for next meeting: Monday October 12, 19:30, Lewdown Victory Hall
Squadron Leader Nick Clyburn - RAF - Experienced Speaker - Non members £5

Dates for your diary:

10th October	Skittles @ Treburley
15th October	Coffee morning @ The Blue Lion
15th October	Food Craft & Skills
	Walks suspended until further notice