

## LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB – September meeting

The series of Autumn talks got off an excellent start with Barry Kaufmann-Wright's presentation of Wildlife in the Garden. Aided by his fine self-produced slides and experience gained from a lifetime of being passionately involved with wildlife, Barry gave his audience a detailed account of how to encourage wild creatures and beneficial plants into the garden.. Perhaps surprisingly, some weeds such as nettles and dandelions should be left to flourish, as these provide a food source for butterfly larvae and bees respectively. Even a flower pot of nettles and a pond can make a garden more inviting to wild life. With open ground being built on at an alarming rate, gardens are becoming increasingly more important in providing suitable habitats for our ever-declining wildlife.

The audience was warned about feeding birds during the summer months, as this could cause young chicks to choke and also, in the long term, this practice could encourage birds to be totally reliant on free handouts and not seek out food for themselves. Beware also of putting cheese on the bird table! The high protein produces albino feathers in robins and blackbirds!

The audience was invited to purchase from a wide range of greetings cards on sale, each one featuring one of Barry's many excellent photographs. Interestingly, Barry had been a Police Wildlife Crime Officer for 22 years and had later pursued his passion for the natural world by gaining a BSc Honours in Natural Sciences and a Postgraduate Diploma in Ornithology. As well as giving talks, he is a Wildlife Consultant for Natural England and a DEFRA Wildlife Inspector – a very busy and knowledgeable person who we were very glad to welcome to Little Waltham.

The subject for the next meeting will be “Bees and Beekeeping” by Penny Learmonth. Wednesday 6 October. 7.30pm, Little Waltham Memorial Hall.  
Local honey will be on sale. Visitors very welcome - £1.50