

Introducing the speakers



Colin Tudge - Co-chair

Colin read zoology at Cambridge and is a broadcaster and writer. He has a special interest in natural history in general, evolution and genetics, food and agriculture, and a particular interest in moral philosophy and the philosophy of science. As a teacher and lecturer Colin is an influential voice on the philosophy and ethics of modern biological endeavours including biotech, agriculture and aspects of conservation.

In Colin's distinguished career he has contributed to a wide range of radio and television programmes and has written for most national newspapers and a great many journals and magazines. His popular book *The Secret Life of a Tree* is very widely known and his textbook *The Variety of Life* is an essential reference on taxonomy. Colin lives in Oxford and together with his wife, Ruth, in 2009 launched the Campaign for Real Farming, and from 2010 the annual Oxford Real Farming Conference.

Ivan Wright - Co-chair

Making a beeline

Ivan and Jacqueline founded Shotover Wildlife in 1999. However, even before the beginnings of Shotover Wildlife, Ivan was leading twice-weekly conservation on Shotover for youngsters on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and became strongly aligned with the need for research and evidence-based conservation. More recently there is much demand for support for University student project work.

Through the specific taxonomic survey requirements at Shotover, Ivan has become a respected identifier and teacher on Hymenoptera - (bees, wasps and sawflies) working almost entirely in a voluntary capacity for the University Museum, and county and national recording schemes. Ivan is a frequent speaker on the subject of bees, as well as the habitats and wildlife of Shotover.

He co-authored 'The Birds of Shotover' with Toni Whitehead and Andy Gosler, and is currently working on a forthcoming book about Shotover. Ivan's background is in environmental science, having spent many years in micrometeorological research in the UK and abroad.

Darren Mann

Shotover and the Museum

Darren is head of the Life Collections at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and is responsible for the day to day running of the entomological department. Darren's wide ranging knowledge and enthusiasm for entomology is legendary; especially taxonomy, field work, collections and teaching. His particular interests are dung beetle taxonomy and ecology, British dung beetle distribution patterns and the taxonomy and biology of the cockroaches.

Lawrence Bee

Geology and habitats on Shotover

Lawrence is an independent ecological and environmental education consultant. He has worked in the natural environment for over 30 years and has developed a varied experience as an all-round field naturalist through extensive practical, hands-on work in the field of ecology and nature conservation. He has provided practical environmental education activities to the primary sector - most recently Rocks and Fossils workshops in Oxfordshire - to secondary and undergraduate students and to adults. He is a Council Member of the British Arachnological Society and executive member of the Oxfordshire Geology Trust. He regularly lectures on British spiders, ancient trees and woodlands, and leads training workshops on spider and plant gall identification.

His particular interests include British geology, ancient trees and oak woodland, spiders, moths and plant galls: he wrote the Field Studies Council ID chart – 'A Guide to House and Garden Spiders' and is currently writing chapters for the forthcoming book on Shotover.

Jacqueline Wright

The lowlife of a green hill

Jacqueline co-founded Shotover Wildlife with Ivan Wright in 1999. She is a botanist in both vascular plants and bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), and became the County Recorder of bryophytes for Oxfordshire in 2002 and for Berkshire in 2007. Jacqueline regularly tutors on the identification of mosses and liverworts.

Jacqueline is also a self-taught artist and illustrator. In 2010 she produced around a hundred drawings for the Mosses and Liverworts Field Guide recently published by the British Bryological Society. She has also drawn many illustrations for the Shotover Wildlife public information leaflets, and is also contributing illustrations for the forthcoming book about Shotover.

As a writer Jacqueline has written a detailed plan for the ecological management of Brasenose Wood and a species-based action plan for the bryophytes of the Shotover area. She is one of several authors currently writing for the forthcoming Shotover book.

Richard Comont

One thousand beetles

Richard works for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, running the national bumblebee monitoring schemes BeeWalk and BeeWatch, and also co-leads the national Garden Bioblitz and UK Ladybird Survey schemes.

He has a particular interest in biological recording and teaching, particularly of beetles and bees: he co-authored the 2013 edition of the 'Naturalists' Handbook to Ladybirds' and the Field Studies Council ID wallchart of ladybird larvae whilst working on a recently-completed PhD on the impact of the Harlequin ladybird on native ecosystems. He blogs for BBC Wildlife as a local patch reporter, and regularly leads ID workshops on ladybirds and bumblebees.

James Rainey

Give us a ring!

James is studying biological sciences at Oxford University, with particular interests in plant communities, palaeoecology and rewilding. At home in Ireland he enjoys surveying local woods and bogs, particularly when stumbling across rare plants, and is involved in Envision - a community run nature conservation project.

Having enjoyed moth trapping on Shotover, he has recently taken up Shotover Wildlife's Adopt-a-Sector botanical survey scheme, and is currently trying to get to grips with lichen and bryophyte identification. After graduating he hopes to set up an ecological restoration group based around the Sperrins Mountains.

Andrew Halcro-Johnston

The flora of Shotover

Andrew has worked in ecological consultancy since completing a Masters degree in Conservation Ecology at Oxford Brookes in 2008. He carries out ecological surveys, assessment and monitoring for a wide range of development projects, mainly in Yorkshire and the north of England where he is now based.

Shotover has provided a fertile training ground for Andrew during his studies and his involvement in the 'Adopt-a-Sector' surveying scheme helped spark an interest in botany that has grown during his professional career. He can now be found botanising anywhere from calcareous grasslands and ancient hedgerows in lowland England to acid bogs and flushes in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where he is still trying to get to grips with the many species of Sphagnum moss.