



BRAMSHALL AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The presentation due last month on 'Famous Folk from Stoke' had to be re-scheduled due to the speaker's being indisposed so it will now take place later this year on Monday 28th October. Instead, Kevin Reynolds gave most interesting presentation on bats which was well illustrated by some stunning slides. He gave some interesting statistics about bats, such as the fact that 25% of mammals in the world are bats (33% in the UK) and there are 1300 species of bat in the world (18 species in the UK). Apparently, they are a lot more numerous than we think as we may see what appear to be one or two flying but there are more likely to be ten times that number.

The most common bat in the UK is the Pipistrelle, which is a voracious eater of midges, consuming about 2000-3000 midges per night and these are detected using echo location. To do this, the bats emit extremely loud pulses of sound which are above our range of hearing and when they do so, they have to close off their own ears otherwise their own hearing would undoubtedly be damaged. By detecting the reflected sound signal off the midges, they are able to locate them. Then, using the back part of their wings, they scoop them up into their mouths whilst they are flying. Apparently, their favourite places for roosting and hibernating are in soffit boards of new houses as there are often gaps between the boards which allow them to enter. As well as presenting the bats of the UK, Kevin showed slides of other bats from around the world and also demonstrated an electronic bat detector. A very informative evening.

The April meeting (Monday 29th April) was the last of the season. There is a break over the summer, and the new season will begin on Monday 30th September, when we will be pleased to welcome popular BBC West Midlands gardening expert Darren Rudge. He will be speaking about how to get the best out of your garden plants. Please put the date in your diary.

Clive Tuck