

Gardening Group Report for October by Margaret and Pauline

We met at Stainton Village Hall for the first of our autumn/winter meetings and had a highly informative talk by Jill Cunningham on Bugs, Beasties and Buzzers.

The photographs Jill used in her presentation were all taken in her own garden and all the information she gave us was from her own observations.

We were told about aphids (Greenfly and Blackfly) of which there are about 550 species (Ladybirds and earwigs do eat a lot), Froghoppers, about twenty species, beetles that feed on pollen and are harmless unless you grow oil seed rape.

Bees that visited the garden - Red-tailed bee, Buff-tailed, Honeybee and the Wool Carder bee named because it collects hairs from plants to use for nesting material. The Nomad bee acts like a cuckoo in the nests of Mining Bees and lives off the Mining bee larvae.

The 'Evil' Weevil was also present in her garden (approximately six hundred species). Most larvae live on roots, stems, and fruits or seeds.

Jill passed on so much information that it was hard to take it in, but everyone came away with the knowledge that in nature everything has its place and is needed.

Indoor Meetings at Stainton Village Hall, 1.45 pm

4th November - Dianne Nichol-Brown, Edible flowers, and teas (samples will be available).

2nd December - **A visit to Nunnington Hall**, 'Christmas Through the Ages – step back in time to see Nunnington dressed as Christmas from the past'.

We leave Barnard Castle at 9am (from Addisons and expect to arrive at Nunnington at about 10.45. We will leave Nunnington at 4pm

Currently all places are taken but there is a waiting list in case anyone has to drop out.

No Meeting in January