

August Monthly Meeting Report by Pauline Fawcett

A Naturalist in Industry – Better than working for a living – Ken Smith

Ken explained that although industrial sites and nature conservation might seem incompatible with co-operation and compromise spectacular and unexpected results can be achieved. His presentation certainly proved that beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Ken started his conservation work at ICI Teesside where wildflower meadows were planted which brought in butterflies, foxes, and badgers. After working on many sites in the UK Ken's work eventually took him farther afield – France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Turkey, India, Tasmania and the USA to mention just a few and with amazing results.

Work in Rio Grande de Sol, Brazil saw the return of rainforest, orchids, toucan, three-toed sloths and humming birds whereas a site (which manufactured explosives) in Brownsburg, Quebec saw the return of the monarch butterfly, beaver and black bear. At Lake Magard, Kenya, flamingo, stork, wildebeest, giraffe, long-eared fox, honey bat and lion arrived. The list of success is endless and all documented with wonderful photographs.

Ken's talk was not only interesting but enlightening.

The vote of thanks was given by Phil Clarke.