

Open meeting 11th September 2025 on “The Amazing World of Plants”



If you did not go to the talk by Gerry Firkins you missed a treat. He outlined that there are hundreds of thousands of species of plant the world. In the UK alone there are about 5,000 in the wild, including garden escapes. Plants have different ways of attracting their desired pollinators. The flowers of some plants open at different times of day depending on which pollinators they wish to attract. Evening Primrose flowers release their perfume in the evening to attract moths. The huge flower of a Sunflower is actually made up of 2,000 flowers, and it follows the sun to advertise to pollinators. When some plants are being attacked by insects they can change their chemical signature to deter further feeding and also send a signal to nearby plants alerting them. If you do not already talk to your plants, try a little encouragement – they may be listening.

Text adapted from Joan Buckland

Photo by Graham Appleby