

Unknown Wales 2019

A day to celebrate Welsh wildlife

Secretive birds, rare sharks and lesser known bees are some of our 'unknown' subjects for this year's Unknown Wales. Discover facts you may not know about the beautiful but invasive Himalayan Balsam, things you almost certainly didn't know about slime moulds (not slimy and not mould!). Plus there will be information from public participation projects across Wales including ways to get involved and discover our fascinating Welsh wildlife for yourself.

- 09.30 – 10.30** **Arrival for tea and coffee**
- 10.30 – 10.35 Introduction to the day by the Chair
- 10.35 – 11.05 Sinead Lynch: Magical Welsh Dumbledores: recording and monitoring Wales' bumblebees.
Explore the importance of recording and monitoring bumblebees in Wales, including the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's BeeWalk scheme and surveying for rare bumblebee species in Wales.
- 11.05 – 11.35 Steven Murray: Welsh Slimemoulds: Undersold by their own Name
Neither, plant, fungi or animal, they are stunningly beautiful, very exotic and rather easy to find...
- 11.35 – 11.50 **Comfort Break**
- 11.50 – 12.20 Amy Wyatt: Himalayan Balsam, the Beautiful Invader
Is there selection for smaller leaves and larger flowers in Welsh populations?
- 12.20 – 12.50 Penny Tomkins: The Spring Bulbs for Schools Investigation
Hear more about this ongoing study and how it engages thousands of pupils in positive action around climate change.
- 12.50 – 13.55 **Lunch Break** (buy from the museum café or bring your own)
- 13.55 – 14.00 Afternoon Session Welcome
- 14.00 – 14.30 Adam Rowe, Sarah Woodcock & Kerry Rogers:
Here be dragons! Filling the gaps in the species record and how you can help!
The Local Record Centres have been working hard to fill the blank areas on the Welsh species map through their '1km square of the month' programme and helping to organise 'Bio-blitzes'; how effective have these been and how can we all contribute in the future?
- 14.30 – 15.00 Ben Wray / Joanna Barker: Angelshark Project: Wales
Alongside fishers and coastal communities across Wales, Angel Shark Project: Wales is working to better understand Angelshark ecology and unlock the role Angelsharks have played in Welsh maritime heritage. The talk will uncover their secrets and show how you can help safeguard this species in Wales.
- 15.00 – 15.30 Mike Shewring: Movement ecology and diet of Nightjar in Wales
Results of recent GPS tracking of breeding Nightjar at sites across Wales and DNA-based diet work.
- 15.30 **Conference Close**