

HENLEY WEA REPORT 2014/5

This last year has been another successful one in every way except financial. In the Autumn Term 2014 we welcomed back Ian McLachlan for a course headed War Wings 1914-18, this dealt with the use of air power in the first World War with particular reference to East Anglia plus the threat and almost overpowering fear of the Zeppelins.

We considered the development of aeroplanes both here and in Germany motivated by war needs. We also were made aware of the efforts of the women making ammunition and aeroplane parts.

Although there was a considerable amount of technical detail the tutor was able to ensure the members of the course understood it.

In the New Year we had a course with the grand title "Wildlife and Habitats of the Suffolk and Norfolk Coast" with Alex Bass as our tutor. At present he is involved with a project at Minsmere and could therefore speak with first hand knowledge of the subject.

He illustrated the course with very good slides and recordings. Somewhat surprisingly he also gave a verbal demonstration of bird songs. His very knowledgeable talks were enjoyed by all the members.

With the fixed costs of the lecturers fees and travelling costs plus the hire of the Boughton Room, we need at least 20 members on each course to be financially viable. Unfortunately this has not been happening.

Our next course will begin in Mid-September and will relate to medieval life in Suffolk with particular reference to the fairs and markets that were held.

I have to state that, for reasons beyond my control, after some 30 years, I will no longer be the Chairman of the WEA. However I intend to still attend and wish the new officials every success.

Arnold Hornsby