

Oxfordshire Mammal Group Winter Lectures 2017–18

Monday 8th January 2018, at 7pm

Mammals and their habitats in the Lye Valley from before the last Ice Age to today: evidence from bone remains



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Dr Judy Webb

Paleo-ecologist and Chair of Friends of Lye Valley Wildlife Group

As a biology teacher, Judy Webb was fascinated by mammal bones and skeletons and always took her students to the University Museum to see the great displays there. Now, as an ecologist, she has been working for many years to conserve the Lye Valley in Oxford, where there are peat deposits dating from the last interglacial (more than 100,000 years ago) to today. Current high stream flows have eroded brook banks, washing out animal bones and teeth from all ages – perhaps from the last glacial, to more recent Roman or Victorian rubbish dumps. Badgers are now the most numerous medium sized mammal in the valley, but did beavers once dam the brook and wild horses and red deer graze the limestone grassland nearby? How can we tell which bones are very old or more recent? How easy is it to identify mammals from their bones and teeth? Judy will describe how the bones and teeth she has found, as well as others in the Museum collection, might allow us to piece together the history of wild and domesticated mammals within this rare valley fen habitat.

**Lecture Theatre, Oxford Museum of Natural History
Parks Road, Oxford OX13PW**

*All welcome: £3 for non-members; free for members (annual membership is £6 and runs until 31st March)
www.oxonmammals.org*