

Minutes of meeting held in the New Walk Museum on Wednesday, 23<sup>RD</sup> January, 2019 from 7.00. until 9.30pm.  
38 members and 4 guests attended.

The meeting was chaired by John Tinning.

John thanked Jan Dawson for providing refreshments.

Jan Dawson referred us to the next meeting in two weeks' time when the speaker would be Dr.Pete Strohe, B.S.B.I. Scientific Officer, who would be speaking about the B.S.B.I. Threatened Plants Project.

Sightings – Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*, seen in Knighton area – various members

Slime moulds – very prevalent this winter – Steve Woodward

Exhibits – a collection of Owl species were in evidence to support the evening's topic

John asked the members for volunteers who would be willing to support the group at various public events during the course of the year. A number of members offered their support and names were recorded.

### **“The Little Owl.” Richard Pegler**

John then introduced our speaker, Richard Pegler who is based in Ashby de la Zouch. Richard was trained and worked as an engineer. In his spare time he organised and led holiday tours for railway enthusiasts in Europe and other parts of the world. Thirteen years ago he discovered natural history photography and, since retirement, this has become an increasingly important part of his life. He is fascinated by owls and he has developed a long term project focussed, quite literally on the Little Owl.

Richard then delighted us with his very informative talk on the Little owl, explaining where to find them, when to find them and how many of them there are in comparison to other species of owl. We also learned about their breeding habits and their life cycle. His talk was illustrated with a whole range of excellent photographs.

Richard finished by answering a number of questions from the audience and then coffee was taken.