

On Wednesday, 10 February, Susanna Ramsey, freelance collector, photographer and authority on wildlife, gave members of the Green Team and the Science Club a talk about nature in Richmond Park. Ms Ramsey brought in bones from a deer, a vole and a shrew. She also brought butterflies and much much more. One of the most fascinating things that I saw were the tiny bones of a shrew that Ms Ramsey had put together without breaking. Then we watched a presentation on facts about owls. There were some really interesting facts like how barn owls' stomach acid does not harm the bones of the rodent, and that the people at Richmond Park did not know that there was a barn owl living there. She also showed us the process of properly dissecting an owl pellet and what the steps were. Once we had finished it, we all had the chance to dissect an owl pellet on our own. First you must soak the pellets in a liquid to soften them up for the process. Then you get tweezers and pick out all the bones that you can see and clean them. When we had finished, we all were amazed at how many bones we had found. We all had a fabulous time!