

DIPTERISTS DAY



DipteristsForum

Saturday 19th November 2022, 10.30 to 15:00 GMT



HYBRID EVENT

This year Dipterists Day will be a hybrid event, with a live event taking place at the NHM in the Neil Chalmers seminar room, plus a live webcast of the session. On-line participants will be able to pose questions for the speakers through the chat.

REGISTRATION

Registration is only required for those intending to travel to London and attend in person

[Registration link](#)

Registration will close on Friday 4th November.

WEBCAST

Those unable to travel to London can click on the attendee link below to watch the webcast.

[Attendee link](#)

PROGRAMME

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|-------|--|---|
| 10:30 | Welcome and orientation | [Zoe Adams (DF)] |
| 10:40 | Biological responses to global change in hoverflies. | [Christopher Hassall (University of Leeds)] |
| 11:10 | New Sphaeroceridae study group | [Mark Welch (DF)] |
| 11:25 | Coffee break & Padlet poster session | |
| 12:00 | AGM | |
| 12:30 | Lunch | |
| 13:30 | Bespoke pollination solutions using cultured Hoverflies | [Dylan Hodgkiss (Olombria)] |
| 13:55 | Diptera of the UAE. | [Brigitte Howarth (American University in Dubai)] |
| 14:20 | Citizen Zoo – Tolworth Court Farm, a peri-urban rewilding project. | [Elliot Newton (Citizen Zoo)] |
| 14:45 | Closing remarks | [Zoe Adams (DF)] |

Each presentation will be followed by a short question and answer session. Those watching on-line can post questions through the chat.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The Hassall Lab

The Hassall Lab is based in the Ecology & Evolution Research Group at Leeds University. Research into biological responses to global change is just one of several areas of study for the lab.

Sphaeroceridae Study Group



Set up in 2021, the study group aims to support anyone interested in studying the Lesser Dung flies.

olombria

...pretty fly

A Tech startup Olombria provide bespoke pollination solutions to horticultural growers. Their service includes use of the AI-based Olombria technology. The system consists of sensors & cameras, to monitor introduced hoverflies, and the release of chemical signals, which manipulate their activity and encouraging them to increase their pollination levels.

SPEAKERS

Christopher Hassall [Profile](#) [ResearchGate](#)

Christopher has been Associate Professor of Biology at Leeds University since 2018. He studied at Liverpool and stayed there for a PhD on the impacts of environmental warming on dragonflies. This was followed by a couple of postdoctoral fellowships in Canada before he returned to the UK to join the team at Leeds. His primary research interests lie in the biological impacts of (i) climate change and (ii) urbanisation. My work investigates changing geographical (distributions) and temporal (phenology) patterns of species occurrence using historical datasets. It is vital to evaluate the capacity of different species to respond to environmental change, as those species that cannot respond face an uncertain future. Principally he has used insects (Odonata, Hymenoptera, and Syrphidae) as well as mammals as model systems for investigating these topics.

Mark Welch

In addition to a distinguished career as a mineralogist at the Natural History Museum, Mark also has a long-standing passion for flies, and on occasion he did indeed sneak over to the Diptera section in his coffee breaks as he wound down his mineralogy research and prepared for retirement. Mark's research career was principally as a mineralogical crystallographer researching atomic-scale interactions that control the properties and transformational behaviour of minerals, with the aim of identifying and quantifying correlations between crystal structure, composition, and mineral stability. Mark is now in that highly productive early-retirement stage of life Mark has thrown himself into a few challenging groups, including being instrumental in setting up the Sphaerocerid study group, studies on UK mosquitoes, and serving as DF conservation officer.

Dylan Hodgkiss [Profile](#)

Dylan Hodgkiss is a Team Entomologist with Olombria. Having developed a deep fascination with invertebrates during research for his MSc in environmental management, Dylan embarked on a PhD programme at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2014 to investigate the benefits that hoverflies provide to soft fruit growers. After designing and carrying out multiple field and laboratory experiments, his research revealed that hoverflies with aphid-eating larvae were effective pollinators of strawberry flowers, increasing yields by 70% and doubling proportions of marketable fruit. With a close eye for detail and strong data analysis skills, Dylan is a passionate entomologist who enjoys the thrill of expanding the limits of scientific understanding through novel research projects. When not undertaking scientific research, Dylan can be found lagging behind the rest of his family on walks in the countryside having spotted an interesting insect to photograph, trying out new Jamie Oliver recipes, watching football highlights on TV or playing guitar.



CitizenZoo

With the strap line, Rewilding Our Future, the [CitizenZoo](#) team are focused on restoring habitats, reintroducing species to their former ranges, and empowering people and communities to act on protecting their local nature.

Brigitte Howarth [Profile](#) [ResearchGate](#)

Currently director of Institutional Effectiveness at the American University in Dubai, Brigitte is responsible for overseeing the university's IE initiatives. She provides leadership in developing the institutional research, planning, assessment, and accreditation protocols for the university and serves as the liaison with national and international accrediting bodies. By training Brigitte is an ecologist with extensive experience in desert ecology and an active research agenda in ecology, entomology, environmental history, and conservation. Her first degree was in Applied Ecology, and her Ph.D. in ecological entomology. Her hobbies echo her research interests with a passion for all forms of life, and what they require to survive. Brigitte is a long-time Dipterists Forum member, presenting at a previous Dipterists Day way back in the early 90s on her PhD studying Hoverfly ecology.

Elliot Newton [Profile](#)

Anyone who has met Elliot knows he is a man with many projects on the go! His current day job is as Biodiversity Officer for the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, and in recent years he has co-founded [CitizenZoo](#), and the Kingston Biodiversity Network. Born and bred in the borough, Elliot has had a transformative impact on many of Kingston's LNRs. Largest of these is [Tolworth Court Farm](#). CitizenZoo in partnership with Kingston Council and [The Community Brain](#), has received seed funding from the Greater London Authority (GLA) under the Greener resilience fund to deliver a range of activities throughout 2022 to kickstart efforts to rewild the site.