

Marianne Overton

Marianne was brought up in Africa. She helped with the looking after of various stray wildlife, Snakes, Chameleons etc.

One day she made the decision that she wanted to go to the Amazon Basin. So she eventually got a group of schoolchildren and adults for her expedition. When they eventually arrived at their destination she described the area as a vast wet landscape. She told us how easy it was to get lost amongst the equally vast swathe of forest. She explained that that was what actually happened to an Italian group one day and they had sadly perished. There was a rule set out that at least three local guides had to accompany them on their journey. Losing their bearings was quite easy when on the waterways that flowed around many islands and inlets.

At night time the sounds of the animals on the ground and in the trees was very striking, causing sleepless nights at times.

She caught sight of Army Ants carrying a Scorpion along with them... lovely, but in actual fact they were helping to clear the ground of any potentially harmful creatures.

Marianne explained how she came across a local tribeswoman who had lost her husband. She told the group how she now struggled to harvest her crops for the family's food. The group rolled up their sleeves and decided to help her out by harvesting the crops for her.

Back to the wildlife, there were frogs that had a poisonous skin layer that the local tribesmen used for dipping the tips of darts into, then using them by the use of blowpipes to kill prey for food.

The natives used to treat animals very differently to us, always for food, never for pets.

Marianne gave our members a really interesting talk. She interacted with everyone and kept everyone's attention throughout. Many thanks for that.