



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

South East Worcestershire Local Group

Your local news for summer 2022

Online Meetings Round Up

17 February 2022 Ed Drewitt gave a very interesting online talk entitled "Our local raptors – or are they?". Advances and wide participation in bird ringing and tracking is revealing so much more about the movements of birds. The tracking has revealed, for example, the sheer length of some of the migrations as well as the stopping places along the route.

17 March 2022 Andy Bucklitch gave a fascinating talk on "The lives of dormice". As dormice live mainly in the tree canopy, except when hibernating in leaf litter, they are rarely seen. Andy revealed that evidence of their presence can be spotted by their distinctive tooth marks in hazelnut shells, which differ significantly from the tooth marks of wood mice and bank voles.

We are not planning to resume indoor meetings this winter but look forward to more exciting online talks, details of which have not been finalised yet.

Janet Morris

Bee Plea

We all depend on bees and other pollinators so why has scientific advice been ignored?

Systemic and persistent neonicotinoids have been re-approved for use on sugar beet crops. This move, although welcomed by farmers, will have a devastating effect on bees and other pollinators.

The seed dressing of sugar beet results in only 5% uptake by the crop. The rest can leach into the soil and be taken up by other plants, many of which flower and are visited by pollinating insects. Soil to water-course pollution is another serious problem.

Times and attitudes have changed considerably in the last 50 years. There are still opportunities for all concerned to lobby the country's representatives to overturn the decision and press for research into an alternative treatment, resistant plant breeding and cultural remedies.

Liz Stone

Tiddesley Wood Logs & Woodchip Sales

Sale dates

Sat & Sun 24th & 25th September 2022

Sat & Sun 29th & 30th October 2022

Sat & Sun 3rd & 4th December 2022

Sat & Sun 7th & 8th January 2023

Sat & Sun 4th & 5th February 2023

10am to 1pm each day

Logs £7 a bag

Loose without bags £140 per cu metre, loaded loose into trailers, car boots etc - any amount

Chips, if available, £3 a bag - quantity discount and for loose

Follow main road (B4084) out of Pershore towards Worcester & turn left, following signposts to Besford & Croome. After c500 yds look for signs.

Nearest postcode: WR10 2AD;

What3words: quits.acrobats.lease

Home delivery of logs

Our volunteer John Holder is able to make some local deliveries of logs (delivery charge applies). Please contact John on 07583 907636. We cannot promise to meet every request and whether or not a delivery can be made is entirely at his discretion.

The end of log sales

The log sales were set up in 1990 to support our conservation forestry programme. However, we have had to consider the viability of the sales with reducing volumes of timber available from our conservation operations, rising costs and the need to replace our storage facility for safety reasons.

The Trust have taken the difficult decision to permanently close log sales at the end of this coming season, February 2023. Sales will run as usual from September 2022 (see above) until stocks are sold out.

We regret that our loyal and regular customers will need to find new suppliers in 2023 and want to thank you all for your custom and support over the years. Your purchases have helped us to continue our conservation work across the county but we are reaching a stage where costs outweigh the benefits.

Volunteers!

The log sales are run entirely by volunteers and we are still welcoming new helpers for our final season of sales to stuff logs into bags or load them into trailers! If you would like to join the happy gang please contact either Harry Green 01386 710377 email zen130501@zen.co.uk or Bob Gillmor 01386 556685 email robert.gillmor@btinternet.com

Hunting for *Gnorimus nobilis*

The noble chafer is a large (about 2cm) and beautiful metallic green beetle with a few white speckles. They are a vulnerable species, found mainly in old orchards in Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. The Trust has been monitoring and studying the nationally important population living in the orchards near Tiddesley Wood for many years. Its habitat is decaying hollowed trunks and boughs of old orchard trees where its larvae live for two to three years, feeding on the decaying wood before pupating. The adult beetles emerge in June and feed on pollen and nectar, in our case mainly hogweed, between June and August.

Part of the study include attracting the beetles to traps using a chemical lure. They are then marked as individuals with a tiny white dot so they can be identified again. Part of the study is to find out how far they fly. After first constructing our traps Janet, Val and I ventured forth to install them! We placed two in the apple orchard, one on the west edge and another towards the middle of the orchard. The third was placed in the nearby old plum orchard.



Chemical lure trap. Photo Sue Chandler

We monitored these traps daily from 1st June, noting weather conditions, feed sources and, of course, if any beetles were encountered and anything else that could be interesting/useful.

At the time of writing (mid-June) we have yet to find any beetles in the apple orchard but on day one, after installing the traps, three beetles were found on hogweed in the plum orchard and marked, photographed and recorded for posterity and the project. The following day No 3 beetle moved 21 metres to a new hogweed plant where it remained for three days through high winds and heavy rain on

one of the nights. No 2 beetle turned up in our trap on day five, in company with a couple of crane flies and a woodlouse. It was released nearby but returned to the trap the following day along with a fourth beetle. Both were again released nearby.



Noble chafer. Photo Sue Chandler

At the time of going to press we have had no further sightings but continue to hope and monitor the traps daily. Even if we don't encounter any noble chafers, we find great pleasure in noting butterfly, bee, common spotted and pyramidal orchids as well as a myriad of other flowers and plenty of insects. Our notebooks and camera memories are very full with our observations and monitoring expeditions can be lengthy with all the distractions!

Sue Chandler

Website

Take a look at our new SEW Local Group website, it can be found at www.tiddesley.org.uk Events and log sale information can also be found on the Trust's main website www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

We are looking for a volunteer who can help maintain our local group website, if you would like to help out with this please contact our webmaster Bob Gillmor tel 01386 556685 or email robert.gillmor@btinternet.com.

Local Group Contacts

Useful phone numbers and your local committee:

Harry Green 01386 710377 (Chairman, Tiddesley Wood, logs and chips, work parties, general information, etc). Bob Gillmor 01386 556685 (Treasurer and log sales organiser). Liz Stone, Jayne Bache, John Holder & Pam Holder (log deliveries), Sue Chandler (bird food and Christmas card sales), Janet Morris (organiser local indoor events). Newsletter edited and stuck together by Jayne Bache.