

Bromsgrove & NE Worcestershire



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

Winter 2022

Your help is needed

Your Bromsgrove Local Group has a long history. Formed in 1980, we've held meetings at four different venues over the years. We began at Perry Hall Hotel before moving to the Methodist Centre and the Council House buildings before settling into Bournheath Village Hall. A decade or so, we welcomed members in northeast Worcestershire to our group when our two groups merged.

I have been involved with the group all these years and have enjoyed every moment. It is with great reluctance that both I and the treasurer have decided to step down and hand on the group.

Perhaps you'd like to get involved and take the group forward? You might like to continue running monthly evening talks or maybe you'd prefer to organise occasional walks to spot nature? With help from the team at the Trust, including the new project Nextdoor Nature (see over), you'd receive plenty of support to help you settle in and find your feet.

I will continue to offer wildlife talks to any group in the Bromsgrove area and across the county in order to promote our wonderful wildlife and the fabulous work of the Trust. If you belong to other groups and are interested in having an illustrated talk, please let me know.

Our final meeting will take place in December, when I'll host our annual Christmas quiz. We'll have Trust Christmas cards and calendars for sale and I hope to see you there.

Wed 7th Dec - Christmas Wildlife Quiz

at Bournheath Village Hall

Claypit Lane B61 9LA

We meet at 7.30pm and admission is £2.50.
Refreshments will be available.

For forthcoming talks via Zoom and to book you place, please visit:

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

I hope you will take away as many good memories of our talks and activities as I do. Please get in touch with the Trust enquiries@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org if you are interested in finding out more about what's involved in being a part of the group.

I wish you all the best. Thank you for your support over the past 40 years and I hope you continue to support the Trust for many years to come.

Best wishes

Gordon

07885 632964

Nextdoor Nature (comes to Bromsgrove)



Hello, I'm Yasmina. You might know me from such videos as 'bat raspberries' and rapping about grasses (if not, you can catch up with them on the Trust's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/WorcswildlifetrustUK1). My digital infamy aside, I am here to talk to you, lovely reader of our Bromsgrove Local Group's newsletter, about Nextdoor Nature. But 'what is Nextdoor Nature?', I hear you cry. Well, get a cuppa, get comfy and I'll take you on a journey.

I lived in Redditch for 20 years. I was not privy to an upbringing in which the outdoors and nature-connectedness were a high priority. Sure, my mum might have pointed out the occasional hovering kestrel at the side of the motorway, but the closest I thought I could get to a career working with animals was veterinary medicine. So, after a disappointing set of A-level results, I found my way, by sheer fluke, into a wildlife biology degree. Game changer.

I am very privileged to have been able to study at university but I am even more privileged to have been able to study ecology and nature conservation at university. And, even more so, to have fallen into this career path, somewhat, by accident. I'm not saying that everyone should aim for a career in conservation or that everyone should go to university. What I am saying, is that these things shouldn't be a barrier to an understanding of, and connection with, nature.

That's where Nextdoor Nature comes in.

Nextdoor Nature is about people, it's about listening to what communities are passionate or curious about and supporting them to turn that passion and curiosity into action for nature. It's about empowering people to make space for nature, and each other, on their doorstep and to build community-connections in the process. Sounds dreamy, right?

We know that spending time in quality greenspaces has incredible benefits for our health and wellbeing, lowering cortisol (stress hormone) production and helping with depression and anxiety. We also know that access to greenspaces isn't equal across all parts of our community.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has a bold vision of one in four people taking action for wildlife. That's the tipping point, the point at which the cumulative power of all those people will start to reverse biodiversity declines and maybe even make a difference to our rapidly changing climate.

One in four. In Worcestershire that's the equivalent of about 150,000 people. In Redditch and Bromsgrove alone, in the communities where Nextdoor Nature is working, it's about 45,000 people. So, we've got a lot of work to do, you and I. To inspire and empower people to think about nature, to connect with it, and each other, and to make space, for both, where they live.

Get in touch if you're ready to get started.

yasmina@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/nextdoor-nature

