

Droitwich Local Group

Winter 2022 News



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

We have sad news to bring you in this newsletter but we hope that there are enthusiastic people out there who may be able to turn it into good news for your spring newsletter.

It was hoped that our recent, successful outdoor meetings would lead to a future programme that may have included the resumption of indoor talks during the winter. However, as several of your committee members need to shield from what may be an upturn in winter Covid cases, we took the difficult decision not to resume these meetings.

The Zoom talks co-ordinated by Smite last year were highly successful. Inspiring speakers from all over the UK were able to talk to many viewers at a fraction of the cost of in-person meetings, while members from throughout the county could watch safely from the comfort of their own homes. We do understand that, unfortunately, not everyone was able to access these and that virtual meetings don't replace a live experience in the company of friends.

The pandemic changed the responsibilities of many of your committee members and we have found it difficult to return to some of our previous commitments including, sadly, the running of the Droitwich Local Group. In addition, the Methodist Hall that served us well for so long is no longer available on our preferred evening and we were unable to find another mutually convenient time.

Although most of our meetings were well attended before the pandemic, for which

we are really grateful, there were occasions that lacked the support our speakers deserved (and, in turn, this had a financial impact in covering our costs).

You've probably worked out what this is leading to. As a committee we feel there is no option for us all to step back and support the Trust and other Local Groups in other ways. We sincerely hope that this is not the end of the group as we all have a common interest in our quest to support wildlife, flora, fauna and conservation.

This is a call to all of you to consider whether you'd be interested in taking on the reins. Running the group isn't onerous but does require an input of time and some organisation. You might be interested in resurrecting the indoor meetings or perhaps you'd like to organise occasional walks with a knowledgeable guide to point out the wild in our area. Maybe you'd be more comfortable running small-scale events for families? Perhaps you'd like to try something completely different? Whatever your interest, there's a role for you in running a friendly group like ours. Just get in touch with the Trust enquiries@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org or any of us would be happy to chat to you more about what's involved if that would help.

Thank you for all your support over the years and hopefully we will continue to work towards a brighter future, with positive benefits for our local wildlife.

*With sincere best wishes from the
Droitwich Local Group Committee*

Trench Wood walk

August 31st dawned a fine, late summer morning – perfect for us to enjoy a guided walk through Trench Wood. We were guided admirably by Dominique Cragg, whose clear, informative and engaging commentary described the management and care of this wonderful woodland for the enjoyment of an appreciative group of WWT walkers, who had travelled from the far reaches of the county to join us for this well supported event. Dominique was accompanied by Tom Watkins, who has taken over the management of Trench Wood as Dominique concentrates on the reserves she managed in the western part of the county. We wish them both well in their new positions!



Meet your new local Reserves Officer



Hi, I'm Tom Watkins and I'm the new Central Reserves Officer at Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

I've been in post for a few months and have got to know all the amazing reserves that are now in my care. I have come from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust where I was a Living Landscape Project Officer, delivering a variety of habitat creation projects and two dormouse reintroductions.

Managing a variety of very different nature reserves is a new and exciting challenge and one that I am looking forward to and enjoying very much. As well as looking after wonderful places close to you, like Droitwich Community Woods (in partnership with Wychavon District Council), Trench Wood and Piper's Hill and Dodderhill Common, my patch covers a wider area and includes reserves such as Beaconwood, Broadmoor Wood, Newbourne Wood, Chaddesley Wood and Piddle Brook Meadows.

I look forward to meeting some of you out and about on our reserves.



Droitwich Community Woods by Paul Lane