



Winter 2022 News

Welcome

During the 'Covid years', your Redditch Local Group ceased to function and starting up again is taking time. Conversations with a few people has meant that we are aiming to restart meetings in the new year but we are literally starting from scratch; we have no speakers lined up, no hall to hold the meetings in and we don't even know if we'll have an audience! We have our work cut out; it will be nearly three years since our last indoor meeting and it is impossible to know if people have got out of the habit of turning out to attend evening meetings, but it's worth giving it a go.

Firstly we need a hall capable of seating up to 40 people and it should have a kitchen to make coffee and tea, as the social side of the meetings is as important as the talks. We will then need to find speakers for three or four meetings and then, most importantly, we will need you to attend. So watch this space and if in the meantime you want to get involved with helping to get your group back up and running please get in touch.

Please keep check the events webpages for what's coming up and where you'll also find information about activities taking place across the county, organised by the Trust and by other local groups

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

Gary Farmer
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Join us at Ipsley Alders Marsh

Winter's arrival means that our volunteer work parties are in full swing. We meet once a month on a Sunday morning to help manage this beautiful nature reserve for the benefit of the variety of wildlife that makes its home here. If you'd like to join our friendly team, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more about what's involved and how to make a practical difference for your local wildlife, call Margot on 01527 60004 or visit the Trust's website for more information www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteering-opportunities/practical-conservation-ipsley-alders-marsh



Longhorn cattle by Eleanor Reast

Nextdoor Nature (comes to Redditch)



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 Redditch 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.

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www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/nextdoor-nature

