



### Onwards and upwards

Your Worcester Local Group has a proud history of promoting wildlife and the work of the Trust across our beautiful city. From walks and talks to chatting to people at events like the Worcester Show, we've been here for decades.

You may remember that in our last newsletter, your group's committee announced that they were stepping down after more than ten years in post. We'd like to thank you for all the support you've given us over the years but have one more ask...can you step in and keep wild activities going in Worcester?

We know that the idea of running a group might sound onerous but it really isn't. Yes, it requires an input of time and some organisation but the rewards can be huge – knowing that you're helping others to enjoy wildlife and time in nature just like you do, for example, can be really satisfying. Organising speakers or walk leaders to spread the word about our amazing natural world helps you to discover more too.

You don't need to be an expert about wildlife to be involved with the group – you might want to organise a series of indoor meetings with expert speakers or perhaps you'd like to set up occasional walks with a knowledgeable guide. Maybe you'd be comfortable running small-scale events for families or perhaps you'd like to try something completely different. The level of commitment is down to you and your fellow group organisers. Whatever your interest, there's a role for you in running a friendly group like ours.

Want to know more? Get in touch with the team at Lower Smite Farm in the first instance [enquiries@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org](mailto:enquiries@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org) 01905 754919 and we'll always be happy to chat and help you to get started too.

We do hope that running the Local Group appeals to some of you. Without your input, there will be no group. If this happens, of course members in Worcester will still be more than welcome to attend Local Group events in other areas of the county. But wouldn't it be better to have things happening on your doorstep?

If helping to run a group isn't for you but you'd still like to get involved in enthusing others about wildlife, turn over to discover how you can get involved with Wilder Worcester, a project to turn our city wild.

*Caryl, Lyndon, Patrick & Enid*

# Wilder Worcester

You'll hopefully have read about Wilder Worcester in your main magazine or perhaps you've come to one of our events in the city? We've been up and running for just over a year and are supporting local people and communities across our beautiful city to learn about wildlife where they live and we can all help nature to recover.

Over the summer we've been busy running events alongside different community groups. From schools and allotments to community green spaces to the cathedral, the events have brought together people keen to learn about the wildlife that we share our urban places with.

From early morning starts to late nights, there is always something to be seen. Have you noticed? What a privilege it has been to watch the moorhens wake up along the canal in the Arborteam, seeing them take their first plunge from their roosting spots in the reeds. What a great excuse we made for children to stay up late – we took bat detectors to hear common pipistrelles foraging for insects along and around the Laugherne Brook.



There's always something to be discovered too. At a family bug hunt in Newtown Green, we were all amazed at the number of Roesel's bush-crickets we found at the new wildflower meadow. Traditionally found in southeast England, these beauties have seen a rapid expansion of their range over the last 10-15 years and they now seem to be established in Worcester city.

More recently we promoted the Big Green Fair at Worcester Cathedral. We were joined by a team member of our new Severn Treescapes project (see your mag for more info) and our brilliant volunteer Jerusha. We planted acorns for families to nurture and talked about ways that you can track wildlife in winter from fox footprints to otter spraints. It was a great opportunity to talk to residents about what wildlife is thriving in their gardens and local green spaces as well as what individuals can do to help.



We've heard from a lot of you that hedgehogs don't appear to be doing well in Worcester. We've often heard the same words 'we used to have them in the garden but not for a few years now'. Hedgehogs in Worcester obviously need our help. From putting holes in fences to increase



Photo: Jan Hawkins,  
SurreyHillsPhotography

connectivity between gardens to leaving log piles and long grass, we can all do something to help our hogs! We are keen to find out how they are doing and have a page on our website with lots of hints and tips for you to help them as well as let us know whether you've been spotting them in your garden or local area [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/hedgehogs](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/hedgehogs)

This is just a taste of the activities that we've been getting up to this year. We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to join in the fun. We've got opportunities for you to get involved in our activities as a volunteer (whether that's for Wilder Worcester or reinvigorating the Local Group) and would also like to hear from you if you're a community group that would like us to support you in helping wildlife. Please visit our website or get in touch

[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wilder-worcester](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wilder-worcester)

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