

Wyre Forest Local Group

Winter Newsletter 2022



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

This time our newsletter is a little different; a literary version! Two of our members, Kate Radford and Irene Winzer, have contributed our front page musings - I hope you enjoy reading them.

Wyre Forest

The Wyre Forest, dark and deep,
What close secrets do you keep?
The smell of earth, peaty, divine,
Centuries lost in time.

Bluebells carpet the forest floor,
Sea of sceptered blue azure.
Foxglove spires in leafy dell.
Primrose with its lovely smell.

The whitty pear, tree of renown,
Once it lived and was burnt down.
Replacement planted to keep the legend,
To snub the nose off the heartless Brigand.

Dowles Brook follows a rambling course,
Twists and turns without remorse.
The old mills now all are spent.
Here the rooks hold parliament.

Knights of Kinlet hunted here.
Wild boar, hare and roe buck deer.
Bessy Blount, fair of face King Henry's bed
She once did grace.
She bore him a son and then was replaced.

Some time ago the trains did pound,
Along the rail tracks on this ground.
Steam and smoke bellowed forth as the
Thundering beast propelled its course.

Walk the track, smell the earth, it lifts
The spirit and rise the mirth.
Home of the children of the soil,
Here the labourers of the rail did toil.

Silence now the woods embrace, with
only the sounds of the aerial race.
Life is lived at a gentler pace,
In the enchanted forest full of eternal grace.

Kate Radford

I Love Autumn

* I love the scents and sounds and feel of autumn and I especially enjoy searching for fungi

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* Last year was a good year for
* fungi and here in Worcestershire,
* in one day on my own lawn I
* found at least five varieties,
* including puffball, fly agaric, with
* crab brittlegill amongst them; for
* weeks I saw lots of lovely circles
* and strands of them whilst out
* walking.



Fly agaric by John Billington

* Have you ever played the game of guessing which are
* poisonous or safe by their look or name? Not by tasting
* them, obviously, but by looking them up in a reference
* book. For example: is amethyst deceiver poisonous or not?
* It's edible. The fire rug inkcap? It's edible. The aniseed
* funnel? It's poisonous. You get the picture!

* I walk with our local group of the Trust one Sunday each
* month. It's a really friendly group and people are interested
* and knowledgeable in all aspects on nature.
* It was a lovely, sunny autumn day on The Devil's Spittleful
* and someone spotted some dead man's fingers in the
* undergrowth. We gathered round and there just under some
* ferns were three black gnarled fingers sticking up as though
* coming from a grave. Pretty spooky!

* Not long after we were stopped in our tracks by a lady who
* had got the whiff of something. She sniffed several times
* and said "There is stinkhorn about, no mistaking it" Sure
* enough a few yards away under the ferns, was stinkhorn, a
* foul smelling horn-shaped fungus.

* As we walked away, I glanced across and with a
* mischievous smile said "Are you a witch by any chance?"
* Well, she didn't say yes and she didn't say no but I swear
* there was a special glint in her eye and just the shadow of a
* warty bump on her nose so... I guess she is!

*

Irene Winzer

Note from Editor: Please never eat any fungi unless you are with a person who knows what they are doing! If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, please get in touch ruth.howell@hotmail.co.uk

Indoor Meetings

Everyone is welcome to all meetings
Holy Innocents Community Hall at 7.30p.m.
Admission £2.50



Thursday December 1st 2022

Christmas Social

Includes a short talk by Chris Morris
and our famous raffle!

Thursday January 5th 2023

Fallow Deer **Chris Bradley**

Come and learn about the deer in the Wyre
Forest. Chris has spent over 50 years studying
the deer in this area.

Thursday February 2nd

Biological records and **an introduction to beetles** **Gary Farmer**

A welcome return to Gary, manager of Vale
Landscape Heritage Trust and a Worcestershire
Recorder of many years, with what will be a
fascinating subject.

Thursday March 2nd

Bugs - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly **Roger Umpelby**

Roger is an excellent speaker and will inform us
on how to love lily beetles and slugs.
(His talk does not include spiders)

Thursday 6th April

Owls **Gillian Hales**

Gillian will bring live owls from the Chelmarsh
Sanctuary. This is an exciting opportunity to see
these lovely birds at close quarters.

**For further information about the group please
contact Ruth Howell (editor) 01562 741891**

Outdoor meetings

Enjoyable walks for all. Start 10a.m. Donations to the
Trust. Most are circular & may be muddy. Dogs welcome
but must be on a lead & able to get over or through stiles.

Sunday December 11th 2022

A Wander around the Witley Court Area - Glyn Walters

A walk of about 4.5 miles. Lovely views of local hills
and a close view of Witley Court. Some stiles.

Meet: Car park by the tea room adjacent to Witley
Church S0768750/WR6 6JT

Sunday January 8th 2023

Walking in Waseley - Mervyn Needham

A walk on the undulating paths through the lovely
Waseley Hills providing good views in all directions.
Approx 3.5 miles.

Meet: Waseley Hills car park S0971781/B45 9AT

Our September walk

Mervyn led us around Monkwood
and Andy Bucklitch told us about
Green Farm, which is adjacent to
the wood (see your main
magazine for more information).



Ruth Howell

Sunday February 12th

Exploring Kinver and its Historical Past - Roy Hall

A walk from Kinver, passing the Hyde, an old industrial
area and Chance Wood WWT Reserve. Return along the
canal to Kinver. 4 miles 1 stile

Meet: Car park Legion Drive, Kinver S0844839/DY7

Sunday March 12th

Roaming around Romsley - Glyn Walters

A lovely walk through some of rural Romsley's green
and pleasant countryside, passing the historic Dowery
Dell Railway Viaduct route. 4 miles 3 or 4 stiles

Meet: The Sun Public House car park, Romsley
S0961800/B62 ONU

Sunday April 16th

Pound Green Common - David Howell

A walk around the only remaining area of former
mediaeval common land associated with the Wyre
Forest About 3 miles of level walking, 3 stiles.

Meet: Hawkbatch car park S0763776/DY12 3AF

**Would you like to suggest a walk or lead one that is special
to you? If so please contact Glyn Walters on 01562 637556**