



## Spring 2023 News

### **We need you!**

Thank you to everyone who got in touch with us after our winter newsletter. Your ideas to help the group get back on its feet have been really helpful. However, we now need a few more committee members to make it happen.

Thanks to all the committee members who have kept the group running for many years. Almost all the committee took the 'downtime' of Covid to step back from running the group and although some are willing to help a new committee to rise like a phoenix from the flames, we need a few more people to help the mythical bird to find its wings.

Nicki and I have been doing some research into new venues and speakers but we need your help to make the events happen. Being on the committee isn't too onerous - just a couple of hours a month here and there and a few hours once a month to help with an event, usually a talk or walk but that's up to a new team to decide.

We'd love to hear from you if you fancy getting involved and giving it a go. Without new committee members, the group will cease to function so this is **your last chance** to help us get the group back up and running.

Drop us a line and we can have a chat; we promise that there's no obligation to commit but we're happy to answer any questions you may have about what might be involved.

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### **What's on where**

Please keep check the events pages of the Trust's website for what's happening across the county [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on)

If you'd like to get involved with practical conservation right here in Redditch, take a look at our Ipsley Alders volunteering page for more information [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteering-opportunities/practical-conservation-ipsley-alders-marsh](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteering-opportunities/practical-conservation-ipsley-alders-marsh)

# Nextdoor Nature (in Redditch)

Since I wrote to you in winter, snowdrops have been and gone, birds have started to sing and I've spoken to a lot of people! In fact, that's the great thing about working with communities to help wildlife on their doorstep...I get to chat to people and really learn what makes them tick.

In some communities that I've spoken to, I've learned that people aren't connected to nature at all. As a member of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, this is probably a bit of a shock to you. You and me, we've an understanding of nature. We might not know what everything is called or even how it all fits together. But we appreciate it, we want to protect it and we know that it's good for us, whether that's about how it makes us feel or how it fundamentally underpins life itself, from clean air and water to the food we eat.

You're already on the nature journey. You're already taking action for nature by being a member of the Trust and, where you can, I imagine you're taking more direct action by actively helping wildlife in your garden and perhaps in your local community greenspace too. Thank you; wildlife needs you to keep doing this. But wildlife also needs more people like you and some of those people don't yet realise that they want to help out.

A really important part of my job is to listen to what individuals and communities need. Often, nature is secondary to the needs of a group but it's great to see people realise that it can help. And if nature can help people, people can help nature. Take the group of men who get together to indulge a woodworking hobby, for example. They may talk about football or what's on TV but they also make bird and bat boxes and share their skills with others in the community. How about the youth group that wants to set up an allotment to grow food but needs a helping hand to understand how to do so in a wildlife-friendly way?



I want to help empower your local Redditch communities to make space for nature, and each other, on their doorstep. Ultimately, as well as helping nature, this will give us nicer communities where wildlife flourishes and we have more connections with our neighbours. I've been doing lots of chatting and lots of listening and I'll soon be helping communities to find their own journeys with nature. If you'd like to know more, to help with inspiring people around you or to get your own community involved, get in touch.

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[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/nextdoor-nature](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/nextdoor-nature)

*Yasmina Ashcroft*

