



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

Droitwich Local Group *News*

Winter 2019

The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness has produced contrasting weather conditions, providing opportunity aplenty to enjoy our local flora and fauna.

Our autumn/winter programme...

As I write, the clocks have just been put back and we can reflect on the pleasure that Roger Pannell's brilliantly illustrated talk *"My Wild Year"* gave to a, sadly, rather depleted gathering at our first indoor meeting of the season, where a select few enjoyed inspirational photos of all that a year has to offer: from a swimming grass snake to vivid images of The Northern Lights!

Bats were the subject of September's twilight walk to Droitwich's Coney Meadow, led by expert ecologist Paul Wilkinson. 17 people including two children attended and were thrilled to see several species of bat: common and soprano pipistrelles and Daubenton's (the latter fly low over the water, hoovering up insects) - Paul caught one in the beam of his red torch, so everyone was able to have a good view! Finally we heard the unmistakable presence of a noctule bat - emitting loud, relatively slow, low-frequency clunks rather than clicks. As ever, Paul was helpful and informative, bringing enough bat detectors to share between the walkers, making identification easier & more fun!

On Monday 14th October, Alan Peace from the World Owl Trust gave an informative and fascinating presentation on the Plight and Future of the Barn Owl. Undoubted stars of the show were Indie, the long-eared owl and Barney the barn owl.

By the time you read this, we'll also have heard from the Trust's Head of Conservation, Helen Woodman, who will have rounded off this half of our programme with a interesting talk about "The Wildlife Of Orchards"



Barn owl © Pete Walkden

Come along to a talk or walk

We're looking forward to an exciting series of talks in the New Year and are in the process of planning our walks for the year ahead. Keep a look out in your next newsletter or check the What's On pages of the Trust's website for more information www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

Monday 13th January, 7.30pm

"A Garden for Wildlife" a talk by Rosemary Winnall

We're looking forward to the very knowledgeable and enjoyable speaker who will be talking about a topic that's very close to many of our hearts.

Monday 10th February, 7.30pm

"Re-emerging Wild Boar in the Forest of Dean" a talk by Dr John Dutton

John, an expert in ecological issues will talk to us about the population of wild boar in Gloucestershire's Forest of Dean.

Monday 9th March, 7.30pm

"Living Landscapes" – a talk by Helen Woodman

The Trust's Head of Conservation will introduce this fascinating subject, which is sure to be of interest to all nature enthusiasts.

Our talks are held at Droitwich Methodist Church, Worcester Road, Droitwich WR9 8AN

All are welcome at our meetings, which include refreshments and cost £2.50 per person.

There is car parking on site and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Please remember to check online for up to date information www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

We wish you all the best for the festive season and look forward to seeing you in 2020!