

# Worcester Group News

December 2019 – March 2020



**Worcestershire  
Wildlife Trust**

## Go chemical free this New Year?

The use of chemicals and their impact on the environment and wildlife is often in the media.

It's so easy to pick up a bottle or a packet from the garden centre to quickly address a current problem. I ditched using chemicals many years ago and now enjoy the increased diversity of insects, birds and mammals in the garden as a direct result. I'm lucky to have a family of hedgehogs feeding and I get alarmed that someone could innocently poison them by scattering around a few slug pellets.

One area I totally forgot about was the lawn. A company tended the lawn quarterly with the necessary fertilisers and sprays, which certainly did the job and the lawn looked great. I became increasingly aware of its impact on wildlife. I watched the birds pecking and eating the fertiliser left on the grass & path. I no longer had the green woodpecker visiting. So I terminated the contract and now need to find an organic solution; homemade comfrey and liquor from our wormery are my current solution. I'll see how the lawn develops in the coming years!

**If you haven't already gone chemical free, how about a New Year resolution?**

**CAN YOU  
HELP US?**



Would you like to help out at our monthly evening meetings? It's not onerous, just a couple of hours once a month. However, if you want to get more involved then we do have a number of admin tasks you'd be welcome to help with.

Come and find out how you can get involved; we will be holding an informal meeting on **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 7.00pm at Lower Smite Farm** (Smite Hill, Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8SZ – off the A4538 between the rugby ground and Martin Hussingtree). This will be an opportunity for you to talk to the existing local group volunteers along with Wendy Carter, Communications Lead for the Trust, and see how you can help out with volunteering for the Worcester Group. You do not need to have expert knowledge to get involved, just a general interest in wildlife and the enthusiasm to help spread the word about the Wildlife Trust.

The Trust is fortunate enough to have the support of nearly 2000 member households in Worcester. We hope you can join us but if you can't make the date and would like to know more, call Anne or Wendy at Smite on 01905 754919, Caryl on 07990 772693 or email: worcswtgroup@mail.com.

*Your Worcester Committee*

## Forthcoming Local Group Events

- **Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Jan - 7:30pm – Go wild for worms - in the garden! by Anthony Roach - £2.50**

These wriggly fellows are well known to gardeners all over. At first glance they might not seem particularly special but they're essential for our soils and wildlife. Anthony from the Earthworm Society will give an overview of earthworm biology, ecology and what's currently known about their habitat preferences with specific reference to gardens.

- **Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – 7:30pm – Forgotten nature, forgotten naturalists of the Welsh Marches by Mark Lawley - £2.50**

Mark will centre his talk around the bryologist Arthur Weyman, who found the rare fountain lattice moss in the River Teme at Ludlow back in 1890. Mark has a vast knowledge of mosses and liverworts as he co-authored a book on the subject.

- **Wed 18th Mar – 7:30pm – All about Barn Owls by Alan Peace – £2.50**

Alan will tell us about these beautiful silent flyers and endangered owls. Come along and get close to an amazing barn owl. Alan will also talk about the work of the World Owl Trust, which is based at Himley Hall.

**Indoor meetings held at Bishop Allenby Hall, St Stephen's Church St.  
Stephen's Street, Worcester. WR3 7HS.**



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Are you suffering from woodpeckers eating all the solitary bee grubs? If so, here's a simple and effective solution...

Purchase a steel chimney pot guard from a local building merchant. Fix it securely over the bee hotel as shown; this will prevent the woodpeckers from attacking the grubs.

It's an easy solution to help save the solitary bees.

## **What you spotted this time last year!**

December	– Blackcap
January	– Kingfisher, pintail, bullfinch, hawfinches,
February	– Blackcap, long tail tits, wren, goldfinch, fieldfares, gadwall
March	– Red Kite, weasel, an array of butterflies including brimstone, comma, small tortoiseshell, peacock, frogs in abundance
April	– Orange tip butterfly