

Wyre Forest Local Group

Autumn 2019



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

A Conservation Success



One of Europe's most endangered wildflowers has come back from the brink of extinction in England and Wales following years of conservation work.

The rare fen orchid *Liparis loeselii*, a small plant with pale yellow blooms, is only found growing wild in Britain in two places, Kenfig sand dunes in South Wales and the fens of the Norfolk Broads.

I was particularly interested to learn that three plants were discovered in 2009 in Kenfig as I grew up near the area. We often walked through the sand dunes to get to the beach at Sker. At the time we didn't realise how important the sand dunes were.

Fortunately, over time, the area has become a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is now recognised as one of Wales' top sand dune reserves, with many of the special plants, birds and insects that depend on this type of coastal habitat for their survival.

Fen orchids were once found in eight sand dune sites along the South Wales coast but a lack of management meant that the dunes became overgrown. Work since 2011 to restore the dunes at Kenfig has been sustained by long-term funding. The painstaking conservation effort has seen the orchid's fortunes turned around. Other types of orchids have also benefitted from the work carried out and the numbers have soared.

Situated on the edge of the reserve is Pwll Cynffig (Kenfig Pool). At 70 acres this is Glamorgan's largest natural lake and is a favourite refuge for wildfowl.

Winter is possibly the best time to see birds here; bittern, tufted duck, wigeon, gadwall, scaup, smew and long-tailed ducks have all been recorded. Occasionally even whooper and Bewick swans visit.



In summer there is a chance to see Manx shearwater when you look out to sea from Sker Point. Gannet, long-tailed skua and pomarine skua have also been spotted along with roseate tern and occasionally storm petrel.

Kenfig National Nature Reserve has enough wonderful wildlife to provide a great deal of interest and enjoyment. There is a wide range of rare plants but the peak time for the fen orchid is early to mid-June orchid is early to mid June and is dependent on the weather in spring

The reserve can be reached from Worcestershire in just over two hours and is off the M4 at Junction 37. Grid Reference 55793817 Postcode CF33 4PT.

A Visitors' Centre provides toilets, shop and exhibitions. There is not a café but snacks are available from machines. Parking is free and the reserve is open all year.

Do visit my part of Wales. Highly recommended!

David Howell

Indoor Meetings

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

Thursday 5th December
A.G.M and Christmas Social



Thursday January 2nd 2020
You're Going Where?
Mervyn Needham and Jim Preston
An orchid adventure in the Spur of Italy.

Thursday 6th February 2020
Birds, Bats and Bricks
Steve Bloomfield

*Getting the best for wildlife through
new development.*

Thursday 5th March 2020
30 Days Wild
Roger Pannell

*Find out the interesting wildlife Roger saw each
day in the month of June.*

Thursday 2nd April 2020
Limestone and Grassland Butterflies
John Tilt

A good opportunity to learn from a butterfly expert.

Date for your diary!

A Visit to Rutland Water
May 30th 2020



*Join us on a visit to this
internationally important
nature reserve.
It is one of the most
important wildfowl
sanctuaries in Great
Britain.*

The cost, inclusive of coach fare and a
guided walk, will be £25 per person.
Further details in the New Year.

Editors: David and Ruth Howell

For further information about the group please
contact David Howell : 01562 741891

Outdoor meetings

Walks for everyone to enjoy in 2019 /2020
All start 10.a.m. Donations to Trust funds

Sunday 8th December
"Clumping" Around Clent
Glyn Walters

*A circular walk, with lovely views, to the interesting
monument at Wychbury. A four mile walk with
several hill climbs; why not treat yourself to a " Clent
Buttie" at the end of the walk!*

Meet: Nimmings car park, Clent National Trust
Nearest Postcode B62 ONL GR 953680

Sunday 12th January 2020
Country walk starting near Caunsall
Roy Hall

*A circular walk starting near the canal, visiting Fairy
Glen before returning along the canal towpath to
Caunsall. A walk of three miles with six stiles.*

Meet: Main park near to canal bridge on the lane
to Caunsall off the A449
Nearest postcode DY10 3RU GR 855809



Sunday 9th February 2020
The Nature of Longmore Farm
Gordon Forrest

*A leisurely walk of about two miles enjoying the
wildlife, including a kingfisher nesting bank that
Gordon has been observing here for over 30 years*

Meet: Farm entrance just off Dobes Lane off
the Bromsgrove road A448
DY10 4RE GR883727

Sunday 8th March 2020
A walk through fields near Shrawley
Hazel Rogers

*An interesting walk through the picturesque fields
and woods near Shrawley. About four miles with four
stiles and one hill climb.*

Meet: In the lay-by leading to the Lenchford
Arms Hotel off the B4196
WR6 6TB GR813642

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