

Droitwich Local Group

Summer 2020 News

The rains of late winter/early spring that I wrote about in your last newsletter overstayed their 'welcome' and as they eventually dried up, we found ourselves plunged into the most unprecedented of times...a pandemic that has brought a whole new dimension to our lives. Confined to our homes and gardens; working from home; virtual meetings; social distancing; home schooling and limited daily exercise outdoors for most of us became the new norm, along with the many other inconveniences that 'lockdown' brought with it. We all have our own tales to tell. Some of us may have been struck down with the virus and recovered; some may have suffered tragic losses. Our thoughts are with you.

COVID-19 has been accompanied by one of the driest and hottest springs on record. By early June our landscapes were parched – after this spring's rain, who would have believed that showers and storms would be so welcome? Our daily walks have been enhanced by the decrease in traffic noise, the proliferation of birdsong and some wonderful wildlife spotting – you'll find some of this overleaf.

As life slowly returns to 'normal,' we wonder when we'll see you again. In March all our planned walks and indoor meetings were cancelled or postponed until further notice. As I write, we're

working with the Trust and other Local Groups across Worcestershire to see how we can go ahead with our remaining events programme – perhaps physical meetings will be possible or maybe we'll go digital. Our first indoor meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 12th October, when, hopefully, professional film maker Alan Mildren will deliver a presentation on Marine Conservation in British Waters. This is due to be followed on Monday November 9th when Simon Gulliver, Gardens Consultant to the National Trust, will enlighten us about The Secret Life Of Trees. If these are unable to take place this year we hope to rearrange them for 2021.

Please check www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on for the most up to date information about events.

We sincerely hope that you have all remained safe and well, we look forward to welcoming you back to our indoor meetings at the Methodist Church Hall in Droitwich as soon as we can safely meet again.

Celia
Your newsletter editor

Our lockdown sightings...



Sue Hubball

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Sue Hubball, a dedicated and hard working member of our Droitwich Local Group. Our thanks to former chairman Geoff Trevis for the following tribute.

Our heartfelt condolences to Sue's family and friends.

Sue was a long term supporter of our group. She served as treasurer, under the chairmanship of Tony Griffin, a post she held for many years, as well as organising sales of goods and bird food at meetings. As well as manning the sales stall, she collected goods from Lower Smite Farm and returned unsold stock. Sue was a familiar face on the WWT stall at Saltfest and the Droitwich Horticultural Society Annual Exhibition.

One year, society members were recruited to grow primroses and cowslips, which were later planted out on the bank at the Community Woods, providing a splendid display in the early spring. Sue was involved in this initiative, attended the planting out ceremony and assisted with the establishment and management of the project. A suggestion has been made that the primrose bank be named The Sue Hubball Primrose Bank and that a suitable sign be made to place near the path at the Community Woods. A fitting memorial to a lady whose contribution to WWT will be greatly missed.