

## Newsletter Summer 2020

### Meetings update

#### Important information for our autumn meetings:

Due to the COVID-19 virus your committee members took the very difficult decision to cancel our indoor meetings from September to December 2020. We are very sorry to do this - we have missed and will miss seeing you all.

At the time of writing in June, we're working with staff at the Trust and with other Local Groups to try to produce an alternative online programme of talks. Please keep your eyes on [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on) for the most up to date information.

We look forward to seeing you in the future. Until then, stay safe and well.

### Bracket Fungus on Our Local Walk

We have been walking around the countryside in our neighbourhood during lockdown and during spring the lanes have been a quiet haven for wildlife. The wildflowers that keep appearing and brightening up our day have been a real boost to our well-being, not to mention the wonderful birdsong.

We have been walking the same lanes regularly and came across this fungus. It's approximately 12" across and certainly bigger than the palm of my hand. It is growing at eye

level but we cannot tell which tree it is growing on because the tree is so old, with no foliage left. Looking at Google we believe it is dryad's saddle, which grows on deciduous trees and old stumps. When young it is an edible mushroom but gets too tough to eat when older. I am not sure that I would risk trying at any stage though!

*Sheena Ramsay*  
*Committee member*



## Birds and Mammals of Redditch Abbey Golf Course

I have always enjoyed walking around the Abbey Golf Course but normally this is restricted to early mornings and evenings when there are no players on the fairways. However, during March, April and May play was suspended and access was possible at all times.

Wildlife has always flourished here with several ponds of various sizes, a central stream, many small copses and a few areas of rough ground with brambles etc. A mixed dense woodland forms part of the southern boundary.

Rabbit warrens are plentiful on the course, together with their usual predators. Buzzards nest here and are always overhead and at the end of March a fearless weasel ran across the path in front of me. Foxes are regularly seen and an April delight was a pair of stoats bounding across a narrow fairway. I have twice seen roe deer at the edge of the course with muntjac deer present in the dense woodland, sometimes seen creeping low through the brambles.



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The ponds are home to the usual water birds including a great crested grebe with occasional visitors such as tufted ducks. A particular highlight in April was a brief visit from a drake mandarin duck with two noisy oystercatchers by the largest pond. There are often glimpses of a kingfisher along the stream with a pair of nesting grey wagtails. Warbler song is always looked forward to and this year was very good with blackcaps in every copse and numerous whitethroats in the unkempt parts with occasional bursts from lesser whitethroats and willow warblers. It was particularly pleasant

at the end of May to hear a cuckoo, which is something of a rarity in north Redditch.

Golfers are now back on the course, in early June, but they rarely severely disturb the wildlife which benefits from the privacy they provide.

Steven Payne  
Committee member & Treasurer

## Join in at Ipsley Alders Marsh

Why not consider helping your local wildlife by volunteering to help out occasionally on the first Sunday in the month. It may surprise you that near our urban area mammals, birds, insects and flowers are thriving together with grazing longhorn cattle.



Please contact Margot Bish on 01527 60004.  
The group gathers at Winyates Green Meeting Rooms, Furze Lane at  
10am on the first Sunday of the month.

Ipsley Alders is a beautiful nature reserve right on our doorsteps.

*Sexton beetle found at Ipsley Alders Marsh by Jackie Hardy*