



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

South East Worcestershire
Local Group

Local News & Local Events November 2020

INDOOR MEETINGS

Winter Programme 2020-2021

There are no indoor meetings for the time being.

With the Covid-19 restrictions in place the Trust has turned to online talks and these are proving to be extremely popular, engaging, relaxing and an all-round success. The speakers have deftly adapted their talks to an online presentation of a clear, concise, beautifully illustrated talk to be enjoyed in the comfort of your own home.

The different local groups are taking it in turns to “host” a speaker and when SE Worcestershire hosted Rosemary Winnall’s ‘A Garden for Wildlife’ back in September the audience consisted of keen nature lovers from the length and breadth of the UK and beyond. Whilst we lament not being able to welcome our audience in person with a cup of tea, the online talks have meant we are able to widen the catchment of participants thus giving people a chance to attend talks they may not normally have reached in person.

Online talks are now being held once a fortnight and we urge you to take a look and book up for any of interest to you.

Urban Peregrines. On 3rd December at 7.00 p.m. Malvern Local Group will be hosting an online talk by peregrine falcon expert Ed Drewitt.

The Natural History of Christmas. On Thursday 17th December at 7.00 p.m. there is an online talk hosted by Redditch Local Group exploring our customs around Christmas with wildlife photographer, cameraman and author Dr Michael Leach.

To book for an online talk visit www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on From here, you can click on ‘Online Talks’ to see the full programme; click on the talk you are interested in (a donation of £2.50 is suggested) and book. You will then receive a link by email to the event which you then click on the night to join. Please be assured that any details you enter are purely used for the relevant event and you will not receive other unsolicited emails.

As we go to press we are working with other Local Groups to organise fortnightly talks through January to March – visit the website for more information and to book www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

Janet Morris

WEBSITES

Information on Local Group events and log sales can be found on the Trust’s main website www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk and on the local website www.tiddesley.org.uk/



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Tiddesley Wood nr Pershore

Logs & woodchips

Sale dates

Sat & Sun 26th & 27th Sept 2020
Sat & Sun 31st Oct & 1st Nov 2020
Sat & Sun 5th & 6th Dec 2020
Sat & Sun 2nd & 3rd January 2021
Sat & Sun 6th & 7th Feb 2021
Sat & Sun 6th & 7th March 2021

Logs £6 a bag
Loose without bags £120 per cu metre (250-350 logs)
Loaded loose into trailers, car boots etc - any amount.
Chips if available £3 a bag - quantity discount and for loose.

For everyone's safety please:

- pay by card if possible
- Maintain social distancing at all times

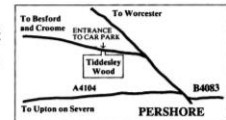
Please check our website to ensure the sale is going ahead

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

www.tiddesley.org.uk



Follow main road (B4084) out of Pershore towards Worcester. Turn left at top of Allesborough Hill following signposts to Besford & Croome. After c500 yds look for signs. WR10 2AD will get you near for Sat Navs.



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Lower Smithe Farm, Smithe Hill, Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8S2 tel. 01905 754919
Charity no. 256618 company no. 929644

FIREWOOD LOGS AND WOOD-CHIP SALES

Restrictions allowing, we are holding log and chip sales this winter. Careful planning enables us to manage the sales with social distancing and volunteers are using masks and visors to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. We can now accept payments by card and prefer that method rather than cash or cheques but all money acceptable! The payment point is now accessed by a one-way system and the cashiers are behind screens wearing visors. If possible please wear a mask when you pay. With these arrangements we have held sales already and the others will follow unless restrictions prevent them. See our websites for updates.

We have plenty of hardwood **Wood chips** available. These are suitable for garden mulch, paths or chicken runs. £3 a bag or price negotiable for loose!

Home delivery of logs.

Our volunteer John Holder is able to make some local deliveries of logs. There will be a delivery charge. If you are interested please contact John on 07583 907636. We cannot promise to meet every request and whether or not a delivery can be made is entirely at his discretion.

TIDDESLEY WOOD OPEN DAY

Sunday 2nd May 2021. Number 35

At this stage of the Covid pandemic we just don't whether this event will be held or not.

VOLUNTEERS!

The log sales and Tiddesley Wood Open Day are run entirely by volunteers. We are always very pleased to welcome new helpers. Log sales certainly give you plenty of exercise stuffing logs into bags or loading them into trailers! If you would like to join the happy gang please contact Harry Green 01386 710377 or email zen130501@zen.co.uk for more information.

OAK

Harry Green

There has been a heavy crop of acorns this autumn. On a walk in Tiddesley Wood in late October they were clattering down on my head and it was difficult to walk on some paths without crushing them. The jays were having a great time collecting as many as they could in their mouth pouches and burying them in nearby open places to be dug up to eat later in the winter. Some will get missed and, with luck, these will germinate and produce oak trees of the future if given a chance. It is said that jays enable oaks to move uphill! A heavy crop in some years and very few in others is a normal course of events.



Acorns in Tiddesley Wood. Harry Green

Common oaks

Most of the oak trees in Worcestershire are either pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* or sessile oak *Quercus petraea* although many of the oaks we see in woods, hedges and as solitary trees are probably hybrids between the two and named *Quercus x rosacea*. However, there are many arguments over individual trees as there is considerable variation in the appearance of both species. Sessile oak is more common in the Wyre Forest District and in the Wyre Forest itself growing on well drained, often somewhat acidic, soils while pedunculate oak is more frequent on the heavier clay soils down here in the south of the county. The hybrid occurs throughout.



Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*. Harry Green

Pedunculate oaks have a long stalk to the acorn cup and a short stalk to the leaf, which has flaps to the base (auricles) but there is a lot of variation.

Generally, sessile oaks have no stalk to the acorn cup and the leaves have longish (1-3 cm) stalks and a tapering base to the leaf.



Sessile oak *Quercus petraea*. Rosemary Winnall

Despite the botanical arguments about identifying the two main oaks, both are of great importance for wildlife. They support far more invertebrates than any most other British trees (over 400 species), only surpassed by willows. Many moth caterpillars eat the leaves, often in great abundance, and these are themselves important food for spring nesting birds, especially tits. Beetles bore into wood and the acorns. Galls develop on leaves, flowers, acorns and roots. The cracks and crannies in the bark are home for many small spiders, mites and others - all food for treecreepers probing into them with fine bills. There are many fungi associated with the roots, their fine hyphal threads growing on or in them and these are pathways for nutrients to enter the trees. Hyphae also connect individual trees together interlinking the trees in a wood.

The branches and trunks are often covered with mosses and over 300 species of lichen have been recorded growing on them.

As the trees slowly die and decay the timber is eaten by many beetles. Around 1800 invertebrates are dependent of decaying wood and oaks are one of the most important suppliers. Dead wood matters!

Other oaks

Turkey oak *Quercus cerris* has been planted in many countries, including Britain, for centuries so its original native range is now obscure. It usually thrives best on well-drained soils. Although originally an introduced tree it readily produces acorns and often spreads into hedgerows. The sides of the leaf are more deeply indented than in common oaks and the acorn cups are covered with long whiskery scales. The acorns take two years to mature. Two red oaks of North American origin are often planted as ornamental trees - scarlet oak *Quercus coccinea* and red oak *Quercus rubra*. Both have very large leaves compared with other oaks and the two species are easily confused. Both have large leaves coloured red in autumn.

Evergreen or holm oak *Quercus ilex* has been widely planted, often in churchyards or as ornamental trees. They remain green-leaved over winter although occasionally a very hard frost will kill the leaves but new ones grow in the following spring. Their native range is from the Mediterranean and to the east thereof.

Many other oaks from elsewhere in the world are planted in parks.

LOCAL GROUP CONTACTS

Useful phone numbers and your local committee:

Harry Green 01386 710377 (Chairman, Tiddesley Wood, logs and chips, work parties, general information, etc). Liz Stone, Bob Gillmor 01386 556685 (Treasurer, Tiddesley Wood Open Day and general information). Jayne Bache, Miriam Tilt (Secretary), John Holder & Pam Holder (log deliveries), Sue Chandler (bird food and Christmas card sales), Janet Morris (organiser local indoor events).

Newsletter edited and stuck together by Harry Green