

# Bromsgrove & NE Worcestershire Spring 2021



**Worcestershire  
Wildlife Trust**

## The things you find...

Throughout the lockdown period, **Chaddesley Woods has been exceptionally busy. On some weekend days I have seen as many as 38 cars parked in the laybys. Surprisingly, and thankfully, this has not resulted in an increase in fly-tipping, although there has been an increase in chocolate wrappers and dog poo bags throughout the wood!**

The exception was the discovery of dozens of small oranges dumped in a couple of the laybys. I can only imagine that someone had finished with a green grocery business and was left with oranges to dispose of. They have remained there, smashed to pulp, serving no purpose other than providing a little extra colour at an otherwise dull time of year. No doubt the person responsible felt part-justified, believing that the oranges might serve as food for wildlife...but UK woodland wildlife has no interest in them, I'm afraid.

Throughout the course of my books, reporting on the woods over many years, I have mentioned many of the things that I have discovered dumped. These include: a large white caravan, burned out cars, piles of asbestos sheets, tyres, magazines, builder's debris, cannabis grower's waste, a pile of dead rats and, on one occasion, a kitten in a box that I delivered to a pet rescue centre. One Christmas holiday I discovered a large box containing a turkey, oven-dressed and ready to cook. I hadn't bought my turkey at the time but certainly didn't consider profiting from my find - I hope the local wildlife had a great Christmas that year.

Aside from the unsightly mess and danger to

both wildlife and people, there is great time and effort from staff and volunteers at to clear up these messes. In some cases, this is passed onto the local authorities, who use our taxes to deal with it, but otherwise it's the Trust's resources that take the hit.

Andy Harris, the Trust's member of staff responsible for Chaddesley Woods, told me "We welcome the increase in families visiting - it's nice to see children enjoying the outdoors and wildlife. We just need to encourage people to stay to paths and take litter home. A big thank you to the few volunteers that have been able to help with access work and wardening."

A few people have enquired about my recent poetry book. It can be downloaded from Amazon for just 99p - search for 'A Collection of Poems' by Gordon Forrest.

I've certainly missed seeing you at our local group meetings. The fortnightly online talks are great but there's nothing quite like seeing each other in person. I'm hoping that our indoor talks can restart in autumn (starting with a talk from me on October 6th about wildlife on local farms). Whether you're a regular attendee to our evening meetings or new to the idea, I wonder whether you'd mind letting me know (call or text) whether you hope to join us if and when we can once again return to meeting in Bournheath Village Hall.

*Best wishes  
Gordon*

your Local Group Chairman

07885 632964

## **Indoor meetings - in your home!**

Our online talks are going so well that we're extending them into the summer months to help keep everyone connected to nature and to each other.

**We'd love to see you at one!**

We're currently busy booking speakers for monthly meetings in May, June and July so please visit our website for up to date information about those talks.

Why not book your place now for our April talks...

### **Thur 1st April Gary Farmer - The Tricks that Nature Plays**

A fool is for life, not just for April. Discover more about how nature fools, tricks, deceives and confused the battle to survive.

### **Thur 15th April Eleanor Reast - Piper's Hill: ancients, elfcups and deadwood dwellers**

Join Reserves Officer, Eleanor Reast, to discover more about the inhabitants and history of this beautiful Bromsgrove nature reserve.

Talks start at 7pm and last for about an hour, including a Q&A session with the speaker.

Find out more

**[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on)**

## **Get recording!**

Following on from the success of last year's Doortstep Wildlife Sightings survey where we asked you to let us know if you saw any of six species of insects, we're extending the scheme to include more wildlife and would love to hear from you.

House sparrow © Vince Garvey



We're still looking for sightings of large red damselflies, common carder bees, 7-spot ladybirds, marmalade hoverflies, small tortoiseshell butterflies and hummingbird hawk-moths. In addition, this year we'd also like to know more about where in the county are our...house sparrows, moles, red-tailed bumblebees, mistletoe (and what trees it is found in), box-tree moths and broad-bodied chaser dragonflies. Each of these species has their own story to tell - find out more on our website. There's a short form for you to complete and we need a photo to help verify your sightings for inclusion in our local and national databases.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wildlife-sightings](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wildlife-sightings)**