

Worcester Group News

April to July 2021



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

Otters in the City

In recent months there have been regular sightings of otters along the stretch of the River Severn in Worcester between Diglis weir and north to Barbourne, also along the Worcester to Birmingham canal when the Severn was in flood. Two families have been seen, one with two cubs and the other with one cub, with views of a lone adult that is probably a male. Although you might think the duck pond in Gheluvelt Park would not seem a likely home for an otter, one seen there appears to have found plenty to eat. It's not often you see an illuminated Christmas tree and an otter in the same view! Seeing otters fishing and making a feeding platform from the debris under the main road bridge oblivious to the traffic noise has been a joy to behold.

Maybe less disturbance from river traffic since the first lockdown has allowed them to breed and thrive successfully? Seeing these amazing animals on my daily walk or cycle ride always makes my day.

Sheila Jones



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More local sightings

We've been seeing our usual winter male and female blackcaps and several greenfinches. One thing we have not seen before is a magpie burying peanuts in the lawn and also in a gravel area where it carefully covers it with more gravel. This is a first for us, we didn't know they stored food!

Enid & Patrick Linturn

Best Nature Books 2020

I'm sure many of you have been reading more in lockdown, so here's a list of some of last years' top award winners you may want to read in 2021.

A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement & A Vision for the Future by David Attenborough - Another inspiring book from the world's favourite naturalist and film maker on how we can and must restore the world's natural biodiversity.

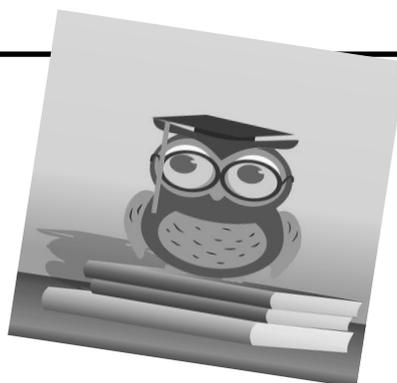
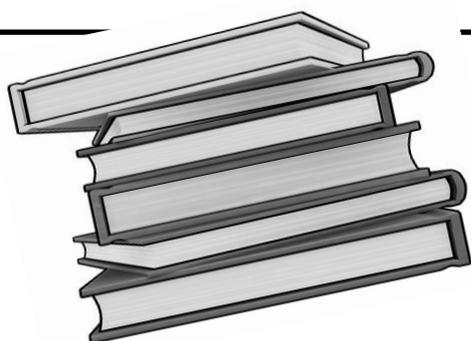
Vesper Flights by Helen MacDonald - A collection of essays about the human relationship with the natural world by best-selling author of 'H is for Hawk'. Multi-award winner and Radio 4 Book of the Week.

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures by Merlin Sheldrake - An amazing exploration of the fungal world. Multi-award winner and Radio 4 Book of the Week.

Diary of a Young Naturalist by Dara McAnulty – 16-year-old Dara chronicles a year in his life as a conservationist, environmental campaigner and TV presenter. Winner of the Wainwright Prize.

Dancing With Bees: A Journey Back To Nature by Bridgit Strawbridge Howard - Shortlisted for the Wainwright Prize, Brigit shares her love of bees and how she reconnected with the natural world on the Malvern Hills.

If you'd like to read more, check out www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/nature-reads where Trust staff and trustees have recommended some of their favourite nature reads.



Looking after the birds in the garden?

Some simple tips to reduce the risk of disease spreading in your garden

- Use several feeding stations to reduce the number of birds in any one place
- Rotate the use of feeding stations so they're not all in constant use – rest periods can help reduce the risk of infections
- Avoid placing feeding stations under garden features where birds perch or roost
- Regularly clean and disinfect feeders, feeding stations and birdbaths with suitable disinfectant and air-dry before using
- Maintain careful hygiene, including wearing gloves, as some diseases can affect human and domestic animal health.
- Make sure that any brushes or equipment you use are not for other purposes.