

Bromsgrove & NE Worcestershire Summer 2021



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

Getting out and about

I'm delighted to announce that we're due to restart our meetings in Bournheath with a newly decorated village hall, which I hope is an omen for a new, well supported start to our autumn season.

It's just as well that people who come along to entertain us with their wildlife pictures already have an established portfolio because this year I have seen very little as regards birds and insects. Several people have come to agree about this decline of species—reports suggest that one in seven UK species are at risk of extinction (see www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/blog/colin-raven-director).

I have missed the open day at Tiddesley Wood, which is a great promoter for the Trust's work. On the other hand, I have seen membership recruiters setting up displays about the Trust at the entrance to Chaddesley Woods. Not only have they recruited new members to the Trust - if you're one, thank you and welcome - but they've also helped to spread the word about the important work the Trust undertakes.

As I stated in previous issues, I have been lucky in not being restricted from visiting my favourite wildlife places. After becoming a little physically compromised, affecting my walking ability, I have been able to use my car to get me out and to also use as a hide.

I noticed at Longmore Farm a particularly colourful yellowhammer and I patiently waited for it to land on the posts along the fence - I hope to have a few photos in the bag ready to include in my talks. A yellowhammer once nested in the grass in the middle of a cow track on the farm and survived 120 cows (480 feet) passing next to the nest four times each day!

My farmer friend Robert Yardly, who is a Trust member and a person keen on conservation, has all the farmland bird species on his land except for the little owl, which has been absent for about four years. Also, so far this year, I have yet to see one of my favourite visiting yellow wagtails.

I pleased to have had the opportunity to mention the Trust when I was asked back to read some of my poems on BBC Hereford and Worcester radio. I thought they would find it interesting if I read them one about a tramp living in Chaddesley Woods some years back. I was checking over the badger setts for photography when I noticed one entrance hole had been greatly enlarged to allow someone to live inside. A bracken room had been formed with a chimney and, outside, a lean-to porch had been constructed using tin sheets from the tractor shed. Apparently the tramp was living there with approval from the badgers who were still putting out their bedding and cleaning out the sett. You'll not be surprised to learn that there is a little more to the story, which I reveal in the poem. Listen out for future work on Tuesday evenings.

Let us all hope that things continue to progress in the right direction in future months and we all get to meet at our first talk on October 6th (see overleaf for more information).

*Best wishes
Gordon*

your Local Group Chairman

07885 632964

Indoor meetings return

We're delighted to announce a return to meeting at Bournheath Village Hall this autumn. You'll find information below and we're keeping our fingers crossed that our meetings will go ahead as planned (keep an eye on the Trust's website for changes).

Oct 6 – Local Farm Wildlife – Gordon Forrest

Nov 3 – Namibia – John Medlock

Dec 1 – Drawn from the Wood – Robin Shaw

Bournheath Village Hall can be found on Claypit Lane B61 9LA. We meet at 7.30pm and admission is £2.50. Refreshments will be available.

Online talks continue

As we go to print, we're just finalising dates and speakers for our online talks, which will take place from September to December. Please visit our website for up to date information and details of how to book a place.

We'd love to see you at one!

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

Picture perfect!

A Bromsgrove photographer has scooped the overall prize in this year's photo competition, winning not just one of twelve places in our 2022 calendar but also featuring on the front cover. Rebekah Nash, from Catshill, took this photograph of great crested grebes at Arrow Valley Country Park in Redditch.

Rebekah said "I've been watching grebe behaviour for years. The lake at Arrow Valley can spoil a shot, so I had to pick the right spot. Three hours I sat and watched them courting, then they both dived and this happened, magically, right in front of me."

Rebekah's photo was voted as overall winner in a public vote during June. She joins 11 other winning photographers in beating off stiff competition from a field of more than 80 entrants and 400 photos.

Calendars are now on sale from the online shop www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/shop and from the autumn meetings.

