

Bromsgrove & NE Worcestershire Winter 2021



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**

Seeing you again!

It was so lovely to see some of you at our first meeting since early 2020!

We met in October in Bournheath Village Hall after almost two years' absence and I have a talk about local farm wildlife. Although attendance was only about two thirds of what it would be pre-Covid, we're not alone in this. At previous talks I'd given in September, audiences ranged from a gardening club of 40 to a church meeting of 60. I suppose I should be optimistic - many people are still nervous of sitting in a room with others and it is inevitable that the return to group meetings is gradual. There are other local Trust supporter groups that haven't yet returned to indoor meetings and a couple that are intending to start in January, all being well. I am hoping that you will continue to support us and perhaps try coming along to a meeting for the first time. I have booked speakers for several meetings and would love to welcome you.

Most people had a wildlife interest at the other groups I visited, especially the gardening club at Hartlebury. People there were keen to know more about the recent decline in species, particularly birds and butterflies. Whilst there are often annual fluctuations, there is no doubt about it in my ind, there has been a general decline in these species throughout the county in just the last three years. Whether the more unusual movement of people since the pandemic started has had something to do with it is difficult to tell; we

have certainly changed our habits as regards exercise and the places that we visit. This

Litter at our local Chaddesley Woods has become an increasing problem. At one point there were 45 cars parked in the area and I'm sure that some of the litter was discarded by people from those cars, not just from cars that pass along the lanes.

Visitors to Chaddesley Woods and, I understand, to some of the Trust's other nature reserves have reduced although weekends remain busy. At least the membership recruiters were able to chat to a lot of visitors who have now become supporters of the Trust - welcome if you're amongst our newest recruits! The recruiters do a fantastic job and are incredibly important to inspiring people to join the Trust and support our work right across the county.

From this point of hopeful recovery, I will be doing my best to catch up with our local group members as you appear at our group meetings. You'll find a list of our forthcoming events overleaf. If I don't see you at a meeting this year, I wish you good luck and continuing good health for 2022. See you soon, I hope.

Best wishes

Gordon

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Indoor meetings

Keep an eye on the Trust's website just in case anything changes.

Dec 1 – Drawn from the Wood – Robin Shaw

Jan 5 – Weevil in a haystack – Gary Farmer

Feb 2 – Dragonflies of the world – Mike Averill

March 2 – Birds, bats and bricks – Steve Bloomfield

April 6 – Job of a wildlife ranger – Phil Rudlin

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

The final Zoom talk of 2021 is taking place on 16th December when the Trust's Director, Colin Raven, will be hosting a Rewilding Q&A session with guest panellists Helen Woodman, Johnny Birks and Brett Westwood. Please join us!

Find out more and book your place

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

Chaddesley Woods update

Winter woodland work will take place as usual over the coming months. This year it once again includes thinning of some deciduous woodland to allow more light to the woodland floor. We will also thin some areas of conifer as part of our continual conversion to native woodland. Our intention, however, is to keep some conifers as they help to demonstrate a phase in the history of the woodland. Finally, we will be carrying out more safety work on dying ash trees along paths and roads. For more information about forestry on our nature reserves, you might like to watch our short video www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXshCmg-cWk&t=3s

From conservation to historic research

Volunteer work parties take place regularly at Chaddesley Woods, Upton Warren and Piper's Hill and Dodderhill Common. Other groups help out on other nature reserves in your area. From coppicing to mowing, our practical conservation volunteers help to keep our nature reserves in tip-top condition and even get a (usually mild) workout at the same time.

However, it's not all physical work. We have a number of volunteers researching the history of some of our nature reserves and would welcome more to help with this. If you're interested in helping to research, scan, index and create summary time-lines for our special places, please get in touch with andyh@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteer