

Wyre Forest Local Group

Winter 2021



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Enjoy Your Garden

I only have a small garden but when I start to count up the wildlife I share it with it's amazing. I can spend many an hour contemplating the different plants and animals - so much more fun than housework!

Near my garden I have some viper's bugloss, a wildflower given to me by a good friend this year; I will certainly get more next year as the bees love it. Mixed with cornflowers, cosmos, field scabious, teasels and evening primrose there is something for bees, butterflies moth and other insects.

This year my butterfly count included: orange tip, holly blue, comma, small tortoiseshell, red admiral, peacock, gatekeeper and just one white admiral, which disappeared before I could get my camera!

In my fence I have an old plum tree, more ivy than plum tree but the ivy flowers attract many bees and insects. It is also a perfect roosting place for sparrow, starling blue tit, great tit, robin and blackbird. These are regular visitors to the feeders where I have also seen dunnock, wren, pigeon and occasionally the local sparrowhawk who drops in for a meal!

Also in the garden I have a small pond. In spring it is full of croaking, spawning frogs, later leaving the garden full of tiny frogs, which I have to take care not to tread on. Dragonflies are also about.

Last but not least, for the last two years a hedgehog has been coming to feed in the garden. For it to get from garden to garden, my neighbour has lifted his fence a little. Speaking to other people locally they too have seen hedgehogs about and have kindly agreed to leave small gaps in fences. It is a great way to help this endangered creature and also a great way to meet the neighbours!

I hope that this shows how important and enjoyable gardens can be.



Rosemary Hatton

Some Lockdown Observations

When lockdown began in March 2020 I decided to do a daily walk around the footpaths of Chaddesley and I have selected a few of my favourite bird observations.

One of my first migrants were wheatear, on passage north, in an area that I subsequently decided must be a migrant route because I also saw tree pipit, whitethroat, stonechat, reed bunting and others in the same area. One of the fields was planted with peas that, after harvest, was planted with a green manure crop of phacelia, wild radish and buckwheat. This seeded down and provides a wonderful food source for flocks (1000 or more) of chaffinch, greenfinch, linnet, brambling and – the star of the show - corn bunting, which aroused much interest. With these large numbers it attracted a merlin who had a feast. Brambling also featured at another site planted with sunflower for winter feed.

Throughout spring I had reports from several people about sightings of red kite but I never seemed to be in the right place at the right time. I was rewarded, very briefly, on 8th of July but I feel sure that they will become much more frequently seen in future years and may even nest in Chaddesley.

The cuckoo arrived on 23rd April 2020 and 28th April 2021 but his presence was only fleeting. After all the spring migrants had moved on or settled down to nesting, another highlight arrived in June. It is what I have come to call the "Kiss Me Quick" bird. I am referring to the quail whose call is just that to my ear. It is a very secretive bird of cornfields, seldom seen but its presence is made known by its distinctive call.

Just to end on a different species, I was surprised one morning to see two hares running around (but alas not boxing) soon to be joined by three more. A red-letter day!

This has highlighted a few sightings to be seen within three miles of Chaddesley church. My totals for 2020 were 73 bird species and for 2021 75 bird species.

Just last week I had a visit from two little egrets. The icing on the cake!

Mervyn Needham

Indoor Meetings

Everyone is welcome

Holy Innocents Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.
Admission £2.50 Covid precautions in place

Thursday December 2nd 2021

The Nature of Longmore Farm Gordon Forrest

An evening with Gordon is always enjoyable. Find out about the wildlife of Longmore Farm where he's been monitoring the wildlife and nature for over 30 years.

A.G.M. Mince pies and mulled wine

Thursday January 6th 2022

Exploring The Severn Rosemary Winnall

We are very pleased that Rosemary is able to give us another of her super talks. This time we'll follow the Severn from source to sea, exploring it on foot, cycle, boat and canoe. A good way to start the New Year!

Thursday February 3rd 2022

The Wildlife of the Ceredigion Coast Eric (The Fish) Davies

It is good to welcome back Eric, his interesting talks are enhanced by his excellent photographs. Join us for travels and observations of wildlife along the Ceredigion coast - a fascinating journey.

Thursday March 3rd 2022

Hedgehogs Terry Green



Terry is a hedgehog expert and will tell us about their general lifestyle and biology as well as ways for us to help them. Not to be missed!

Thursday April 7th Spring Social

This is instead of our usual Christmas Social. Same fun and amazing raffle!

Thank you

Thank you very much for your response to our appeal for help in running our local group. We are very pleased to welcome two new committee members, Vivienne Farrell and Richard Jeynes. Offers of help have also been received by other local members for which we are very grateful.

For further information please contact
David Howell 01562 741891

Enjoyable Walks to Join in

All start 10.a.m.

Donations to the Trust

Sunday December 12th 2021

Exploring near Chaddesley - Mervyn Needham

A chance to enjoy some of the wonderful footpaths and wildlife around Chaddesley Corbett. Approx four miles.

Meet: Lane next to Chaddesley Village Hall off the A488. GR 88737 PC DY10 4QA



Ruth Howell

Looking at the shaggy parasol fungi at The Devil's Spittleful on our October walk

Sunday January 9th 2022

Three Counties Walk - David Howell

A gentle walk on undulating field and woodland paths ending with potential refreshment at the Bellmans Cross Inn at Shatterford. Approx four miles with seven stiles.

Meet: Shatterford Village Hall on the minor road to Arley off the A442 GR 790813 PC DY12 1RL

Sunday 13th February 2022

A Ramble from Romsley - Glyn Walters

A rural walk through meadows and woodland near Romsley and Walton Hill with spectacular far reaching views. Along quiet lanes and a climb up Walton Hill. Approx 4.5 miles three stiles.

Meet: Car park at Romsley Recreation Ground GR 958799 PC B62 OPT

Sunday 13th March

A delightful walk around Astley - Hazel Rogers

A circular walk through some of Worcestershire's beautiful countryside with good views, the historic Astley Watermill and tranquil Dick Brook. Approx four miles with six stiles.

Meet: Astley and Dunley village hall behind the houses on the B4196 GR 800687 PC DY13 0RF

Sunday 10th April

The Nature of Longmore Farm Gordon Forrest

A fascinating walk following on from Gordon's talk in December. More details in the next newsletter.

Would you like to suggest a walk or lead one that is special to you? If so please contact Glyn Walters
01562 637556