

# Bromsgrove & Northeast Worcestershire Local Group

## Spring 2024



**Worcestershire**  
Wildlife Trust

## Hello from your new committee!

I am writing as the new Chair of your Local Group. A steering group including myself and **Gary Evans** (Secretary/Treasurer) has taken on the mantle of getting the group up and running again.

Firstly, we want to pay tribute for the many years of commitment and hard work of those who previously ran the group, in particular former Chair **Gordon Forrest** and Treasurer **Trevor Jones**. Thank you to everyone involved.

We'll hold our monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month and will have interesting speakers to inspire you about wildlife and conservation. We hope that this proves convenient for our large number of members and friends.

We've now met twice: in February with **Gary Farmer** on Worcestershire's wildlife in a time of change and in March with **Steve Woodison** on the conservation of raptors. We're off to a great start!

We have one more meeting before a summer break: **Eleanor Reast** will talk about the wonderful **Eades Meadow** on **Monday 8 April**. We hope you will join us.

Our first autumn meeting will be on 9 September when **Gordon Forrest** will talk about Upton Warren Wetland Reserve where he was one of the first volunteers. **John Tilt** of Butterfly Conservation will be talking about Worcestershire's butterflies at our meeting on 14 October.

I am hoping that we will run some outdoor events in the future and we are especially keen to organise nature-based activity to involve younger children.

Please do try to get to some, or all, of our future events. You'll be most welcome.

***Viv Chandler***

Sign up to the Trust's monthly e-newsletter to be alerted to our meetings and more  
[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/e-newsletter](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/e-newsletter)

## A new venue

**Where:** Amphlett Hall, Crown Close, off Market Street, Bromsgrove B61 8DW

**When:** 2nd Monday of the month, 7.30pm

**How much:** £2.50 to include tea/coffee/biscuits

**Monday, 8 April: 7.30pm**

**Eleanor Reast: Eades Meadow – its history, inhabitants and management.**

Eleanor is Reserves Officer for the Trust's eastern reserves.

Amphlett Hall is a single-storey building set back from Market Street behind a grassed area, between ASDA and St. John's Church (halfway up the private road to the church). The best car park is St. John Street pay and display (by Waitrose); it's free from 7pm. A limited number of parking spaces at the venue can be used by those with limited mobility and there is a disabled ramp for access to the building.

## Nature reserves local to you

Many of you will be regular visitors to Upton Warren. Last year we were awarded funding from Natural England's Species Recovery Fund to restore some areas of this brilliant wetland reserve. The islands are an important refuge from predators for many waterfowl and wetland birds. However, they've been degraded by wave action so we've rebuilt them using specialist fencing to protect the edges from future erosion. Our Upton Warren volunteers are a powerhouse but this was even too much for them to take on! In November we welcomed a fleet of specialist amphibious diggers onto site to rebuild islands and remove reeds to create more open water. It won't be long before we see little ringed plovers using the newly stoned islands to nest on and the

first avocet of the year arrived back at The Flashes on February 11th – a sure sign that spring is on its way!

Spring is a great time to drop by Eades Meadow at our Foster's Green nature reserve near Hanbury. Come early May, it will be a sea of green-winged orchids and cowslips, with impressive mature oaks lining the old hedge boundary; wow! I'll be talking to your group in April about the meadow so if you'd like to know more about it then do come along.



Photo: Robin Couchman

*Eleanor Reast*

## Nextdoor Nature in Bromsgrove

Happy spring! With daffodils poking their yellow sunshiny faces out of lawns and hedgerow bases, it's a time for thinking about fresh starts. We often feel energy levels rising as sunlight creeps longer into the corners of each day and sap rises up tree trunks. Where will you channel this newfound life force? I'm obviously biased but my advice would be to get outside, meet people in your local community and harness the amazing benefits that social interaction and spending time in greenspace has to offer.

There's a lovely little spot in Bromsgrove that's in need of some TLC. Charford Community Garden based at St. Andrew's church on Lyttleton Avenue was once a lush and fruitful garden for local people to get outside, grow food and gain new skills. Over the last few years it's been neglected and, whilst you can still find a crop of juicy raspberries in summer, the space is crying out for love and care. In February I hosted a social in the garden, welcoming people from the local community. Mostly it was an excuse for tea, cake and chats but we also shared ideas of what people would like to do with the space and what they would like to get out of being part of a community group. Everyone is welcome to be part of this project, regardless of skills and experience, so if you fancy getting involved, get in touch; I very much look forward to meeting you.



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