

# Bromsgrove & Northeast Worcestershire Local Group

## *Summer newsletter 2025*



**Worcestershire**  
Wildlife Trust

Dear friends

As I write it is a wonderful, sunny mid-June day and summer is here in all its glory. Long may it continue!

I do hope that you have been, and are, able to get out and about enjoying nature locally. We have so many lovely places in our area, including nature reserves that are managed and maintained by the Trust. We hope to have copies of the Trust's reserves handbook for sale at our talks. If you're out in wild places, do remember to keep your dog on a lead and to stick to paths to keep wildlife safe.

On the subject of which, our autumn programme begins in September so see below for details of our forthcoming meetings; we've got

some great speakers lined up. Free parking during the evening is available on Waitrose car park.

Many thanks to Judith and David King for their contribution overleaf. If you'd like to contribute to the next newsletter, please do get in touch.

I do hope that you will be able to get along to one of our evening meetings but if you've not been before and would like more information about them, do drop us a line.

All best wishes

**Viv**

**Viv Chandler**

Chair, Bromsgrove and NE  
Worcestershire Local Group  
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Meetings start at 7.30pm and cost £3 (cash) per person  
Amphlett Hall, Crown Close, off Market Street, Bromsgrove B61 8DW

### **Monday 8 September**

*Pine martens*

with Johnny Birks

Worcestershire Mammal Group

Delve into the fascinating world of  
these beautiful mammals

### **Monday 13 October**

*The Heart of England Forest*

with Ros Anscombe and Sam Macvie

Learn about the background, and  
vision as well as how the team are  
optimising biodiversity

### **Monday 10 November**

*Bats and lighting*

with Cody Levine, Worcestershire County Council

Discover more about the effects of artificial lights on bats and other wildlife  
and why you might see red lamps lighting some of Worcestershire's roads.

On a recent visit to Droitwich Community Woods we watched bumblebees foraging on a large flower-covered bramble. If you like your nature cute, take a good look at a bumblebee. Plump, colourful and furry, the insect version of a teddy bear. When I was five I even made the mistake of trying to stroke one.

The worker bees in the woods were focussed on their programmed task: visit flower, pick up pollen, move to the next flower, repeat until you can barely fly and then take the booty back for the growing larvae in the nest. They seemed almost unaware of our presence unless we got very close, when a raised leg told us to back off.

In the spring we had seen their mothers, the huge buff-tailed queen bumblebees, smart with two yellow bands and buff "tail" (actually the tip of the abdomen) zigzagging over the ground in search of nest sites before foraging to feed their first worker offspring. Now it was the turn of those workers, smaller versions of their mothers but with tail colour changed to white, to help feed other workers and eventually new queens and males.

On the nearby Droitwich canal there were more insects. Gleaming, iridescent dragonflies spend up to five years as larvae underwater before making the most of their short lives as adults, looking for mates.

Back in our own garden we took part in No Mow May, which makes a striking difference to the number of insects that visit the garden. It was lovely to see four species of bumblebee workers on the white clover in the lawn. As well as buff-tailed bumbles, there were also red-tailed workers, all black with a red tail, as well as tiny early bumblebees with red tail



and a yellow band, and orangey-brown common carders. The ragwort was feeding the tiger-striped orange and black cinnabar moth caterpillars. I'm glad that my early misfortune with a bumblebee didn't lead to a life-long insect phobia.

We only moved here two years ago and Worcestershire has been a revelation. It has both lovely scenery and fascinating nature. But the biggest difference for us has been in the commitment and interest of so many volunteers and organisations actively working for nature in the county and the many and varied opportunities to join in and help.

Enjoy your nature watching, and anything that you do for nature, this summer!

*Judith King*

Tell us what you spot **[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wildlife-sightings](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/wildlife-sightings)**

Check out our events **[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on)**