

Droitwich Local Group Worcester Local Group

Summer 2025



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Hello and welcome to your Droitwich and Worcester local groups update!

At time of writing the sun is blazing down on us here at Lower Smite Farm and the beautiful garden is in full bloom. If you haven't already popped down to visit us, now is the perfect time – we are open during weekday working hours and you're welcome to explore our wildlife garden and trails around the site with plenty of wildlife to see.

We are still seeking volunteers to resurrect the Droitwich & Worcester local group committees to run talks and walks in the area. These groups are the lifeblood of the Trust, forming a vital link between communities and the work we do here. Volunteering on the committee is a rewarding experience where you can contribute as much or as little as you are able to, helping out with planning, administration and operations of the group. We will shortly be hosting an informal information session for anyone who may like to volunteer to share best practice for running a group. If you are interested to find out more, please contact me on the email below.

Elise

Senior Membership Officer

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Local Events

**Please note that some events require booking.
Most are free or have a small entrance fee.**

For full details and more information about locations, please visit
www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

Thu 17th July 10am–1pm **Garden Open Day** Lower Smite Farm

Wed 23rd July 10am–1pm **Midweek Ramble** Monkwood (SE Worcs Local Group)

Thu 24th July 10am–12noon **Wildlife Watch Group (ages 5–11)** Lower Smite Farm

Sun 3rd August 10am–12pm **Hartlebury Common Walk** Hartlebury Common (Stourbridge
and Hagley Local Group)

Wed 13th August 10am–2pm **Family Nature Day** Lower Smite Farm

An update from your Wilder Worcestershire team

Neighbourhoods Nurturing Nature has just passed the end of our first of three years working with communities in the urban heart of Worcestershire. From Wychbold, through Droitwich and Worcester, all the way down to Kempsey, we've (me (Connor), Julie and Anna) have been supporting groups in making their areas better for both wildlife and the people who share these spaces.

We've been lucky to be involved in some exciting long-term projects, including the planting of three new "Tiny Forests" at a primary school in Droitwich, a secondary school in Worcester and a community space in Fernhill Heath. All of these have successfully survived the droughty conditions we had through March and April and now appear to be flourishing with the support of these groups and their hard work.

Julie and I have also had the chance to work with the Worcester Community Trust on their women's and men's specific community groups, JOY and CORE, in developing their own green spaces and getting in touch with wildlife. Since September last year, these groups have been chatting about wildlife, working in their gardens and using these meetings to stay social. The mental health of the people our team work with is just as important supporting their local wildlife, so having the chance to work in these spaces has been a wonderful opportunity to help these groups thrive.

Julie has had fantastic opportunities to work with the Heart of Worcestershire College, Christopher Whitehead Language College and Worcester Sixth Form College on various science and garden projects this school year. As much as possible, we allow the students to lead these ventures to let their inquisitiveness bloom. This has resulted in fantastic work looking into things such as the effect of mycorrhizal fungi on tree growth, best grass maintenance for pollinators and the effects of different types of bird boxes, amongst many others.

We've also had a fruitful partnership with the Worcester Environmental Group (WEG), where Connor and the WEG chairman, Zoe Hickman, have led a number of nature walks and talks helping to engage people of all ages in events such as winter tree identification, bug hunts and guided bird walks. All of these events were held on sites on the "Wild about Worcester Way", an extended wildlife trail encompassing all of the city established by the WEG in 2023.

Not all of the work the team does is so involved, with some projects only requiring advice or suggestions about how to care for particular habitats. Some of these have included sites such as Chapter Meadows and the Worcester Community Garden in Worcester, Copcut and Pulley Lane Woods in Droitwich and Bull Meadow in Fernhill Heath. These sites are already great for wildlife and we've had the pleasure of visiting these places and providing some info on how people can make them even better for nature.

We have had a truly wonderful first year getting involved with these many and varied groups over the last year and are really hoping to make progress during this coming year to get Worcestershire looking even greener! Let us know if you or your group would like to get involved with the project and do keep a look out for me, Julie or Anna at your local green space.

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/community-action

www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/blog/wilder-communities



HOW College garden



Chapter Meadows dusk bird walk



Hindlip First School Tiny Forest planting