

Droitwich Local Group Worcester Local Group

Newsletter winter 2025



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

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

We are shifting attention this month as we watch the harvests of autumnal abundance turn to the dormancy of winter but that doesn't mean that life at Lower Smite Farm, or across our nature reserves, is any quieter. We take advantage of the reduced footfall and scaled back foliage to get better access for some of our bigger conservation and maintenance tasks, with big teams of staff and volunteers heading out to erect and maintain fencing and paths, tend to forestry work and prepare habitats for our hibernating species. Winter is also the time when our local group talks are in full swing; when we head indoors to hear tales of conservation and wildlife across the county and beyond. You are welcome to attend any of these events across the county for a small £3 door entry – a selection is below but for a full listing please visit the What's On pages on our website.

For those of you who struggle to get outdoors at this time of year, or prefer to stay snuggled up in the warmth, we have a number of online talks and podcast episodes to keep you abreast of all Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's happenings:

- www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/events/2025-11-12-green-farm-reaching-out-ancient-woodland-online-talk
- www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/blog/wild-worcestershire-podcast

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Local Events

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

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

Sun 16th November 10am-12noon **The Monarch's Way walk** Chaddesley Corbett

Sat 22nd November 10am-4pm **Christmas craft fair** Lower Smite Farm

Sun 14th December 10am-12pm **A stroll in rural Hagley** Hagley

Wed 14th January 7-8pm **The secret life of otters** Online talk

Mr Beestans Community Garden, Droitwich

Since June, our Neighbourhoods Nurturing Nature team has been working hard with a couple of dedicated community members and Platform Housing to reinvigorate the space on Winslow Avenue called Mr Beestans Garden. Some of you might know of this area, a little nature haven that's hidden in east Droitwich with some beautiful fruit trees and shrubs, a pond full of life and spaces all over the garden for insects and other local wildlife to call home. During last winter and spring, the space had become fairly overgrown so local residents - Kevin and Emma – realised that they needed some help get the garden back to its previous, glorious state.



Mr Beestans Garden was 'born' in 2013 with the collaboration of a group of local residents and then 'Fortis Housing' (now part of Platform Housing). Together they cleared an overgrown plot of land between Winslow Avenue and Charles Henry Road; by the summer of 2014 it had gained its name. In the 11 years since then it's been a hub for local residents to socialise and work together to make this space amazing for growing fruit, vegetables, flowers and friends.

When the growing season came this year, Kevin and Emma realised that the garden was beginning to look a little overgrown again.

Overgrowth can sometimes be great for wildlife but it's not great for people and wildlife to share and, if left unmanaged for too long, it loses some of its value for wildlife too. So, along with Platform Housing, they collaborated with us here at the Trust to try and jumpstart the garden for the year ahead. Our combined team has put in a lot of effort to clear the beds and get some



fruit and veg into the ground. We're now looking at rebuilding the pond and planting some new species to really help this area flourish again, just as it has in the past.

We're continuing our work at Mr Beestans Garden throughout the winter to get it ready for next year and to try and involve as many members of the community as possible in supporting each other and our local wildlife. If you are interested in dropping in and joining Kevin, Emma and us, there is an open gardening session every Wednesday morning from 10am until 12noon. We'd love your help in bringing everyone in Droitwich a little closer to nature.

Connor McGoldrick

