



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust



Stourbridge & Hagley Local Group

Newsletter spring 2026

Talks

At St. Saviours Church Hall, Hagley.

27th March at 7.30pm

What to look for in spring

The importance of recording wildlife sightings, a talk by Wendy Carter.

24th April at 7.30pm

A quest for emperors, dragons & fair damsels

The biology and identification of dragonflies and damselflies, a talk by Eden Tanner.

Walks

Bluebell Walk at Saltwells NNR

Saturday May 2nd at 10am

Our walk will be led by Les Drinkwater, Chair of the Friends of Saltwells National Nature Reserve.

Booking is required, phone 01384 371064 to book.

There will be a charge of £3 per person.

Meet on the main car park on Saltwells Lane off Saltwells Road/Coppice Lane near Saltwells Inn.

Post code DY5 1AX Grid ref. S0933868.

Walk at Hunthouse Wood nature reserve

Thursday May 21st at 10.30am.

Unfortunately this walk has been cancelled. It may be re-booked in 2027.

WWT Penorchar Meadows at 25

Friday 26th June at 10am & 2pm.

There will be two walks during the day to mark 25 years of the Trust's ownership of the reserve. A bit of history and hopefully lots of wildlife. Booking not necessary. Parking on the reserve off Hagley Wood Lane (the entrance is just above the reservoir). OS explorer 219 / OS map 139 Grid ref. 939811 / what3words sugar.images.butter.

For more details please visit the Trust's website

www.worcestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

Chris and the Podcast

In December I was asked by the team behind the the Trust's 'Wild Worcestershire' podcast to speak about my volunteering journey with the Trust. The podcast is a relatively new endeavour, having made its debut last summer. Focusing on different topics for each episode, it is designed to draw

attention to the many projects, people and developments of the Trust.

I enjoyed the opportunity to sit down with fellow trust volunteer Lee Robinson and talk about my now 15 year-long volunteering journey, which began by building and

installing nest boxes at Chance Wood back in 2011 but has since grown over the years to further outdoor work at the Penorchar Meadows nature reserve and, finally, becoming a

committee member for Stourbridge and Hagley Local Group. We spoke about the many adventures, friendships

made and opportunities to learn more that come with volunteering for the Trust. The significant

development of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is widely the result of many volunteers coming together with a love for wildlife and I look forward to seeing what comes next.

The 'celebrating volunteers' edition of the podcast is available now alongside all of the other episodes; why not take a listen and learn more about what the Trust gets up to? Find it on Spotify, Apple or www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/blog/wild-worcestershire-podcast

Chris Thomas



Chris putting up a nest box in Chance Wood assisted by Roger and Ian. 17/2/2012

Wild Service Award 2025

At the Trust's AGM last year Pam Holmes was presented with a Wild Service Award for her volunteering commitment. Pam has volunteered for many years and is now a volunteer at Penorchar Meadows nature reserve.



A Good Read

A Wood of One's Own
by Ruth Pavey

Ruth Pavey was always drawn back to her birth county of Somerset. She lived and taught in London

for many years but yearned to reconnect with the countryside and to plant trees. In 1999, after many visits to Somerset in search of a wood, she purchased four very overgrown acres at Langport auction, described by the agents as "being of interest to conservationists."

She describes her attempts to gain control of her wood with great warmth and humour interspersed with the history of the local area and her own family history.

The book was given to me by a friend who found it in a charity shop. Handing it to me she said "when you start to read it you won't want to put it down". She was right, it's a very good read. It's a Sunday Times book of the year.

Deeper into the Wood
by Ruth Pavey

After working in the wood for 20 years Ruth wondered whether she had improved the area for wildlife. She regretted not having surveys done before she started work there in 1999. Her second book, *Deeper into the Wood*, is about her year long quest to discover all she can about the wood and its inhabitants and to establish a new baseline for future surveys. This, her second book, is written in the same easily readable style showing a great sense of stewardship of a very special place.

Deeper into the Wood is available from Dudley Libraries but not *A Wood of One's Own*. I have a copy that I am happy to lend to anyone who would like a very good read.

Avril Williams

Penorcharde Meadows 2025

In 2025 there were 12 work party days at Penorcharde, adding up to 170 days of volunteering and about 850 hours of group-working here. A huge amount of work has been done but there is always more to do. If you would like to find out what we do, come along to a work party; you may want to stay.

Penorcharde Meadows
25 years a WWT Reserve

The freehold of 33 acres of Penorcharde Meadows Farm was purchased from Margaret Joan Harrison for £84,000 on 3rd March 2001. There were several fields with Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status, including the three fields below St. Kenelm's Church. At about the same time a field below the reservoir, also a SSSI, was leased from South Staffordshire Water PLC, which enabled vehicle access from Hagley Wood Lane.

Halesowen Wildlife Group worked on the site until 2009 and then our local group began monthly work parties there.

The fields surrounding the reservoir had not been managed for many years and Michael Liley,

then WWT's Local Wildlife Sites Liaison Officer, raised concerns that without action this flower-rich acid grassland would be lost. These fields were leased from South Staffordshire Water PLC in July 2020, enabling them to be sympathetically restored and managed by the Trust. A huge task!

Avril Williams

Penorcharde Update

In November the volunteers transferred their attention to the small fields off Hagley Wood Lane. Tasks included bramble control and the removal of two large boughs that had fallen from an oak tree adjacent to the road.

The intended work party in December was postponed due to a fall of snow. Bramble control was continued and the debris from this and previous work parties was burned, allowing the customary jacket potatoes to add to the pre-Christmas celebrations.



John with his bowsaw

The January work party was cancelled due to snow.

The subsequent thaw and persistent rainfall meant that ground conditions were unsuitable to continue working on the South Staffs fields, so in February we transferred to the Upper Church Field and linking field. Bramble and remaining bracken was cut, the debris removed and some fence repairs carried out.

We continue to have good numbers for the work parties in spite of inclement weather and have achieved a lot. Many thanks to all involved for their commitment and hard work.

Ian Williams

Volunteer days at Penorcharde Meadows

Volunteer days are held on the 1st Monday of the month from 10am – 3pm on

April 13th May 11th June 1st
July 6th August 3rd

Volunteer days at Romsley Meadows

Volunteer days are held on the 3rd Monday of the month from 10am – 3pm on

April 20th May 18th June 15th
July 20th August 17th

Current volunteers will receive an email giving details of our meeting place for each work party. New volunteers should contact Andy Harris on andyh@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org. Bring lunch and a drink for mid-morning and for lunchtime if you are staying all day.