Southeast Worcestershire Local Group

Winter newsletter 2026

Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Welcome

What a summer we have just experienced. Comparable to similar conditions in 1976, yes I do remember that time, but with the additional increased warming in world temperatures and oceans. Birds hiding away in the shrubbery, bees searching for pollen and butterflies flitting around the garden to avoid the sun.

We have a challenge for you. To increase participation with us, your local group, please let me have your ideas for an outdoor activity for summer 2027 - walks, talks or visits, all ideas will be considered. My email address is at the end of this piece.

In addition please encourage your friends and family to join in with our activities or to join the Trust - perhaps you could buy them membership as a Christmas gift? www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/membership We look forward to meeting you in the near future at one or more of our meetings.

With all best wishes

Chris Wolstencroft
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Tiddesley Wood nature reserve by Helen Dorey

Talks

Our talks take place at the Friends Meeting House, Cowl Street, Evesham WR11 4PN, starting at 7.30 pm and costs £3.00.

All are welcome, please do bring along friends and family.

13 January
The birds and history of Upton Warren
Gordon Forrest
Gordon is a keen wildlife photographer and speaker. He is also an author of eight books and two poetry collections, with more in the pipeline.

10 February
Shetland to Scilly
Ashley Grove
Ashley has previously led local walks for the Trust and RSPB. He has his own wildlife watching business, running holidays for groups in the UK and overseas for 12 years.

10 March
Fascinating fungi: the hidden kingdom beneath our feet
Kate Aubrey
Kate is a passionate nature lover and is heavily involved with the Kemerton Conservation Trust.

14 April
Saving wetlands for wildlife
Jackie Harris
This is a story of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's work in saving iconic wetland species around the world. Jackie has worked and volunteered for WWT since 2016 in various capacities, including projects and training volunteers and staff.

Harry Green MBE


(c) Eli Rees King Photography

George Henry Green, known to us all as Harry, passed away on July 23 2026 at the age of 92. Worcestershire's wildlife has lost one of its most passionate and committed advocates and we have lost one of our dearest friends.

To many of us Harry simply was Worcestershire. He held the county and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (WWT) very close to his heart and during 56 years on Trust Council, served as officer, chair, vice-president and president.

Harry was (probably) the founder member of the Southeast Worcestershire Local Group and, together with our group, he established Tiddesley Wood Open Day and log sales, raising much needed funds for the Trust.

Kemerton Conservation Trust

Members who attended our monthly meeting back in February will recall a very interesting talk from Kate Aubrey, entitled Kemerton Lake Through the Seasons. During the talk Kate made an open invitation to attend the annual Kemerton Lake Nature Reserve Open Day, which took place in June.

I was very pleased to take part in the first walk of the day, which focussed on the flora and fauna of the reserve, and learning about the habitats and management of the site.

The walk included access to areas around the site not normally open to the public, where there were many orchids in bloom at the time, along with an amble around the arable wildflower area to see some of the rarities that grow there.

There were various birds on the day, with reed warblers and sedge warblers heard and a glimpse of what was believed to be a garganey. We were encouraged to keep a keen eye out for the local hobby, which feeds here on a regular basis, but alas was not seen by our group that day. It was suggested that August and September are better months for seeing hobbies, after the young have fledged, so I visited again in August. This time I was very fortunate to observe one of the adults spend about half an hour feeding on dragonflies, sitting in the top of a dead tree at the edge of the lake and swooping down to catch its prey.

It is wonderful to travel around the country and visit amazing places with stunning nature reserves but, sometimes, there are also little gems right on your doorstep.

Ian Jewitt


Reed warbler at Kemerton Lake Nature Reserve (c) Alan Chattell