

# Bromsgrove & Northeast Worcestershire Local Group

## Summer 2024



**Worcestershire**  
Wildlife Trust

## We're going from strength to strength

Firstly, I do hope that you are having a great summer and are able to enjoy the wonderful nature that surrounds us.

Since I last wrote to you, we have held another well-supported evening event - with a record attendance. That was in April, when Eleanor Reast spoke to a packed room. Eleanor's fascinating talk on Eades Meadow was very well received. There's just time to visit this wildlife gem before the annual haycut is taken. *However, Eades Meadow is very delicate so please do keep to the path as straying off it may cause damage to the botanic value of this important site.*



Eades Meadow by Robin Couchman

Thank you to everyone who came to hear our last three talks about wildlife and the impressive work

being done by the Trust and others to conserve it. Thanks also to those who helped facilitate these events. This has got our revitalised group off to a great start.

Our autumn programme is overleaf with evening meetings in September, October and November. We do hope that you'll consider joining us for these. As you can see we have excellent speakers lined-up: on the Upton Warren Wetlands Reserve, on Worcestershire's butterflies and on getting the best for wildlife in developments.

Given that our meeting venue was packed out in April, we are exploring the potential for an alternative location. We will hold our September meeting at Amphlett Hall as usual but please check the Trust's website for future meeting details. What a wonderful problem to have - thank you all for your support.

With all best wishes,

*Viv Chandler*

Chair, Bromsgrove Local Group  
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## Autumn programme 2024 (but see note on venue)

Meetings start at 7.30pm and cost £3 per person

### Monday 9 September 7.30pm

*The ancient and natural history of the Upton Warren Wetland Reserve*  
with Gordon Forrest

### Monday 14 October 7.30pm

*Worcestershire butterflies*  
with John Tilt

### Monday 11 November 7.30pm

*Birds, bats and bricks - getting the best for wildlife in modern development*  
with Steve Bloomfield

### VENUE:

Our September meeting will take place at Amphlett Hall, Crown Close, off Market Street, Bromsgrove B61 8DW

We are exploring alternative, bigger, venues. Please do keep an eye on the Trust's what's on page to check the location of future meetings. We look forward to seeing you soon.

[www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on)

## Butterflies of Worcestershire

*by John Tilt*

There has been an exceptional rise in interest in butterflies over the last four years and Worcestershire is no exception.

In 2023, 40 of the UK's 57 species were recorded in Worcestershire. 12 of these butterflies are listed as priority conservation species. A staggering 132,000 butterflies were recorded by 1675 people.

My talk on 14th October will look at some of these species in more detail, looking at where to see the less common species as well as the most interesting sites.

Brown hairstreak by Simon Pugh



## Upton Warren update

*by Eleanor Reast*

The islands we restored at Upton Warren over the winter have attracted good numbers of nesting birds this year.

There have been far fewer black-headed gulls as a result of avian flu last year and this has meant that The Flashes has been a lot less raucous this spring!

As of June 17<sup>th</sup>, there are 56 avocets, including six fully fledged young, on The Flashes. Four little ringed plover have attempted to nest but we think a stoat has been disturbing them and other birds attempting to nest. Unusually, for this time of year, a bittern has dropped in to the reedbed so there's plenty to stumble across if you take the time!