



Summer 2024 News

Thank you!

It's now 12 months since we embarked upon setting up a functioning and active local group. In this time we have delivered eight very well received evening talks and two walks, listening to the evening bird song round Ipsley Alders Marsh nature reserve, admiring the carpet of orchids at Hipton Hill Orchards in Lenchwick and at the end of July we'll be taking an early morning walk around Trench Wood to see what has been caught in moth traps set up the night before.

A programme of talks has been prepared for the autumn/winter season starting with a talk on whales and dolphins by Dave Hill on Wednesday 11th September. This will be followed by Helen Kelly and Rachel Wells talking about their experience of creating a wildlife garden. We're following this in November by a talk from Nature Trek who will be taking us on a journey of birding around Europe. Please do come and join us for one or more of these events - we'd love to see you.

Gary Farmer

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Dates for your diary

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month.
Talks cost just £3.00 per person.
Walks are free but donations are welcome.

Jul 27th: Moth trapping at Trench Wood (visit)

Sep 11th: Looking out for whales and dolphins (talk)

Oct 9th: Creating a wildlife garden for Gardener's World (talk)

Nov 13th: European birding (talk)

Dec 11th: Christmas quiz

Where: Winyates Green Community Centre, Furze Lane, Winyates Green, B98 0SE
<https://rubiconleisure.co.uk/winyates-green-community-centre/>

Please keep check the events pages of the Trust's website for details of our talks and what's happening across the county www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

Small acts can make a big difference to wildlife

We have been hearing from local members wishing to share their experiences of wildlife in the Redditch area. One member has reported what appear to be positive signs on swift numbers; only four were around at the start of spring but that increased to 12 birds later in the summer.

Members have been improving the wildlife friendliness of their gardens by planting flowers that are popular with pollinators, installing ponds, changing their lawns to wildflower areas, using feeders and nest boxes and installing bat boxes. All of these small acts add up and make a real difference to wildlife in the town.

Foxes have been seen visiting gardens, even breeding in one garden with four cubs putting in regular appearances. Other mammals visiting gardens include hedgehogs, badgers, muntjac deer and bats. One member has reported visits by bats that are very much up this year compared to the last 10 years.



Several different species of birds have been reported nesting in gardens, using natural sites such as hedges as well as nest boxes. Young families have been seen, including blue and great tits, robins, goldfinches, house sparrows, blackbirds, starlings and dunnocks.

Insects have been reported including oak and speckled bush-crickets. And a few brightly coloured mullein moth caterpillars were reported nibbling the leaves of a verbascum in a garden. They grew to around 4cm before disappearing, presumably going into the next stage of their life cycle. The caterpillars' scientific name *Cucullia verbasci* provides clues to their preferred diet.

We would like to do more to promote and protect the wildlife of Redditch through our on-going programme of events. We still need more help from willing volunteers to build on the good start we've made. If you can spare a small amount of time then please get in touch (garyla@outlook.com).