

Bromsgrove & Northeast Worcestershire Local Group

Winter newsletter 2024



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Forrest, Tilt and a Raven

After our successful relaunch earlier this year, we enjoyed well-attended meetings in February, March and April. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big **THANK YOU** to all those who have joined us at these meetings, and to encourage others to join us too. **Thank you also** to the staff at Worcestershire Wildlife Trust who have supported us this year.

We took a break from meetings over the summer and then, in September, we began our autumn programme with **Gordon Forrest** talking about the Christopher Cadbury Wetland Reserve at Upton Warren. Gordon was followed by **John Tilt** speaking about Worcestershire's butterflies. Both were interesting, entertaining and inspiring. Again, attendances were very good.

At time of writing (in October) we are looking forward to having a very special guest speaker at our November meeting - our long-standing Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Director **Colin Raven**. I hope that when you read this, you will have enjoyed this special meeting. Colin has been with the

Trust for 38 years and spent 30 of those at the helm. He has made an incredible contribution and we wish him a very happy retirement at the end of the year.

I'm pleased to report that our programme for 2025 is well advanced and we have some great speakers lined-up for January, February, March and April. See over for details. We do hope that you will join us at one or more of these.

Please also note that your committee are looking for ideas for daytime outings to nature reserves in the spring. Please email your suggestions to Jamie Morris at wwtbromsgrovebranch@gmail.com

One last thing. I am delighted to report that **David King** has taken on the role of Group Treasurer. Thank you very much David.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Viv

Viv Chandler

Chair, Bromsgrove Local Group
wwtbromsgrovebranch@gmail.com

Winter programme 2025

Meetings start at 7.30pm and cost £3 (cash only) per person

Monday 13 January

Birds, bats and bricks - getting the best for wildlife in modern development

Steve Bloomfield (WWT Senior Conservation Officer)

Monday 10 February

Piper's Hill and Dodderhill Common nature reserve

with Chris Jewson (WWT Volunteer Warden)

Monday 10 March

Green Farm - the birth of a nature reserve

with Dominique Cragg (WWT Western Reserves Officer)

Monday 14 April

Spotting wildlife near you with Wendy Carter (WWT Communications Lead)

VENUE:

Meetings take place at Amphlett Hall, Crown Close, off Market Street, Bromsgrove B61 8DW

Dates and venues may be subject to change so please keep an eye on the Trust's what's on page. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Encouraging wildflowers at Piper's Hill

by Tom Watkins

Those of you who have visited Pipers Hill and Dodderhill Common recently will have noticed that the footpath along the power line has become wider.

The work was instigated by safety issues caused by ash dieback along the lines. Most of the reserve is valued for the 280 veteran trees, which is the reason for the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation, but this area is dense woodland with very little open space. The need to make the powerlines safe presented the opportunity to create a new woodland ride, bringing a more varied habitat to this part of the reserve.

Natural England gave us consent to fell seven and a half metres of trees on either side of the powerlines; the majority of those felled were ash. The plan is to allow the ride to regenerate naturally and introduce a three-tier system where a strip each side of the footpath is mown every autumn to encourage wildflowers. The next tier will be allowed to develop into scrub where small sections will be coppiced in different places each year to maintain the age structure of the scrub.

As the ride develops over the next few years we should start to see a variety of plants and invertebrates colonise the area.

