

## **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Malvern Local Group meeting. 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

### **Bat Conservation**

Birds conquered the air by day, bats conquered it by night, and became one of the most successful mammals in the world. There are over 1400 species worldwide, living everywhere except the polar regions. With 17 species in the UK, bats make up a quarter of all our different native mammal species. But not all are thriving; bats, generally, are under threat from habitat loss, pesticides, and the decline in our insect population. The Vincent Wildlife Trust told the Worcester Wildlife Trust's Malvern Group about its efforts to save one of our most threatened bats – the greater horseshoe bat. The Vincent Trust is based in Eastnor, near Ledbury, and works across Britain and mainland Europe, acquiring key breeding roosts for rarer bats in old buildings and areas of ancient woodland. Marina Bollo Palacios, Bat Conservation Officer with the Vincent Trust, emphasised that we can all help to save our bats by attracting insects to our gardens, minimising the use of pesticides, and reducing outside lighting. Bats may not be our most popular, but they are much to be valued in their role as pollinators and in dispersing seeds.

Next meeting: 7.30 pm on Thursday 2nd December 2021 at The Lyttelton Well, Church Street, Malvern. *Helen Mugridge: Gardening for Wildlife*. £2.50, all welcome.