

Worcester Canal Group: Minutes of meeting held 10th May 2023, 7pm at The Chestnut Pub

Present: Joy Squires (Chair); George Squires (Treasurer); Cllr Matt Jenkins; Louise Robertson (Worcester City Council community engagement team); Liz Yorke (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust); Graham Fowler; Jenny Barnes; Jackie Hollis; Ian Mackey; Mel Roxby-Mackey; Clare Harker; Cllr Karen Lewing; Sarah and Greg

Apologies: Cllr Hannah Cooper

1. Joy welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members.
2. **Minutes** of the last meeting noted. No matters arising.
3. **Matters Arising:**
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Current position - £349.86 total, of which £226.92 is ring-fenced for trees. Cllr Karen Lewing had donated £250 from her Covid Recovery Fund to purchase litter-picking equipment. This had not yet been received as the WCG is currently without a bank account! George still waiting to hear back from Santander and NatWest about a new WCG account. It was suggested he try Lloyds Bank too.
5. **Updates:**
 - a. **Canal history and heritage project.** We agreed to go ahead with developing interpretation boards, with QR codes and vandal-proof covers. Ian Mackey to liaise with Matt Jenkins. Link for oral history to be put on Canal Group website.
 - b. **Litter picks** – ongoing and well-supported.
 - c. **Fruit trees project** – we will look to plant more trees in the autumn. A brief discussion on ash die-back and its impact on trees along the canal.
 - d. **Wilder Worcester project** – Project now at an end. Evaluation film being made. WCG to participate in this. ARA is being filmed on 20th May.
 - e. **Swift Box project** – walks starting 17th May in the Arboretum. 8pm at Pocket Park. The plan is to identify where swifts are nesting and use SwiftMapper App to record findings. Liz and WWT will have a stall at ARA Fayre on 20th May to promote. Walks and the need to grow wildflowers to attract insects will be promoted.
 - f. **Cathedral Eco Group** – Eco Fayre is being held on 7th October. Aim to have WCG presence there. Joint visit with ARA to visit Lower Smite Farm wildlife garden.
6. **Any Other Business:** **1.** Matt is in touch with Kate Cox (Worcester Paint Festival) and CRT about getting something painted on the Bilford Rd bridge, using his Divisional Fund to pay for it. **2.** Karen planning on something similar along the canal, using her Covid Recovery Fund.
7. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 12th July 7pm at The Chestnut Pub.