



**Herefordshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# *Wilder* **HEREFORD**

**AGM 2021 – 2022 December 8, 2022**

Chair's Report

# The 'Constituted' City Branch

We are constituted as an official HWT Branch which allows us to independently apply for grants and funding for events and activities that supported the objectives of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust.



# Who We Are

- Chair: Anne Cottringer
- Treasurer: Emil Morfett
- Secretary: Mo Burns
- Committee Members: Nicky Geeson, Nic Howes, Maggie Setterfield
- HWT Liaison: Sarah King

# Membership

Membership is you! If you are a member of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, and live in the City membership area, you are automatically a member of a Hereford City Branch. You don't have to apply to be a City Branch member.

You should receive our newsletter and you can visit our website at:

<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/wilderhereford>

There are 621 HWT members living in the Hereford City Branch area.





# Aims of the City Branch

- Put nature into recovery
- Empower people to act for nature
- Secure our future
- to work in partnership with groups and organisations to create a joined up nature network to ensure nature's recovery work in the City for wildlife and humans alike







The aims of HWT Hereford City Branch are carried out by work at the the macro and micro level.







Our activities aim to welcome new people to volunteering work and provide a safe and friendly environment where people can enjoy making a contribution to Nature Recovery.

# Funding News

Former Senior Conservation Officer Andrew Nixon wrote a successful bid to the Environment Agency for the Hereford Yazor Brook Restoration Project funding to cover three years. It is designed to fund HWT staff supervision and meeting time, project manager time volunteer training, equipment purchase, and hire and engagement activities. The funding will take us to the end of March 2023.



# Community Award for Climate and Biodiversity

The City Branch received this award for the Hereford Yazor Brook Restoration Project. Councillor Dyke, presenting the award said: “This project has over many years brought new life to a once derelict waterway, improving the diversity of wildlife, protecting and enhancing the natural habitat, and restoring a valued amenity to this City.”



# Challenging Times

The threats to our environment are ever increasing: climate change, threats to biodiversity and the acute threat to our watercourses which has special significance in our county and in Hereford City with the deterioration of the River Wye. Within this context the Hereford City Branch works to improve our blue green infrastructure of the City and through our involvement in campaigns we continue to fight for the future of the Wye catchment and threats to our urban wildlife environments.

To read a summary of River Wye Pollution issues by Emil Morfett:

<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/blog/river-wye-pollution-update-summary-emil-morfett>



# Responding to Challenging Times...





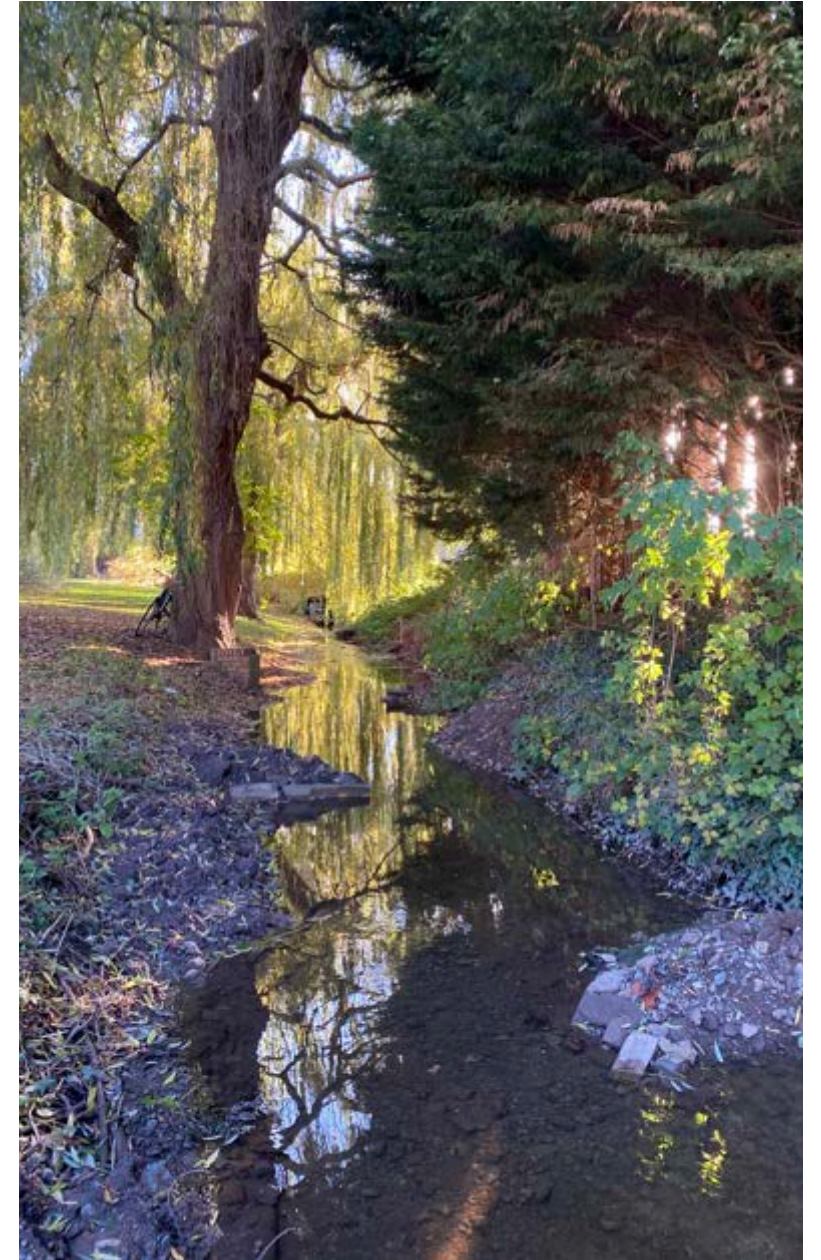
# Hereford Yazor Brook Restoration Project

The HYBRP is our major project. Activities during 2021-2022:

- Brook Restoration winter works programme
- Invertebrate Monitoring
- Citizen science work testing brook under aegis of FOUW
- Reporting of pollution incidents – includes liaising with Environment Agency with regard to various polluting activity.
- Fish rescues in dry summer of 2022

# Some Yazor Works

Creating croys to improve habitat





# Riverfly Monitoring



Three times a year we do invertebrate surveys at 15 sites along Yazor Brook. We take a kick sample at each site and examine it for key invertebrate species, tallying up the numbers and sending the data the National Riverfly Database. It helps us to assess the state of the habitat at different sites in different seasons as invertebrate populations are indicators the health of watercourses..



# Flora and Fauna Audit

We know that biodiversity is declining in many places, but what is the situation along the Yazor Brook? To answer that we first have to list the species present now. We have started with walks along different sections at different times of the year, noting what we see. We are continuing this work which started in 2021, gradually building up a more comprehensive picture.

In 2023 we intend to extend this auditing the trees along Yazor Brook and to do botanical audits in church yards in the City.



Pixie Ears growing on a rotting log by Yazor

# Reporting Pollution

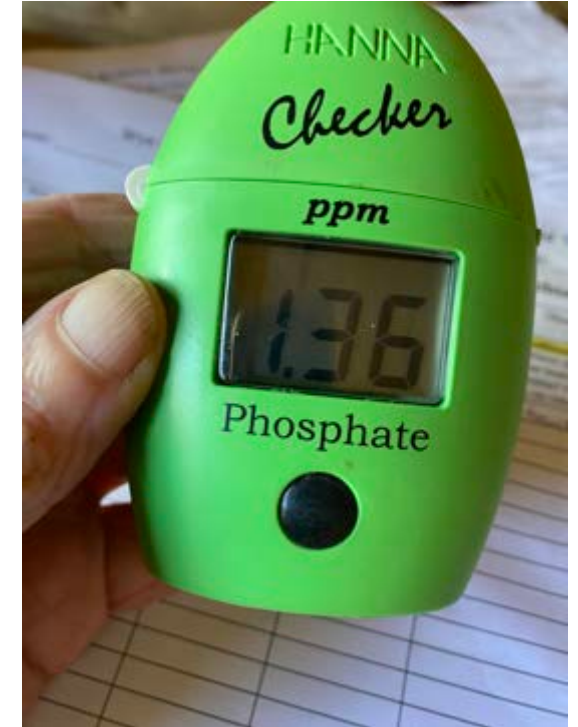
Due to our work along the brook, we can pick up pollution incidents which are not otherwise monitored, which we report to the Environment Agency and to Welsh Water. One of our projects for next year is to map all the outfalls along the brook.





# Citizen Science Water testing–Wye Catchment

City Branch citizen scientists are affiliated with Friends of the Upper Wye. Many of us have been testing since July 2021. For more info and to view Michael Carpenter's brilliant mapping of citizen science data: <https://www.fouw.org.uk/citizen-science>



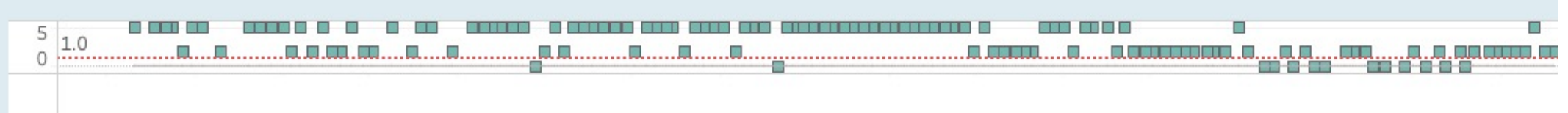
Phosphate  
(ppm)

-meter (line)  
and/or



Nitrate (ppm)

above red line =  
high pollution



Electrical

conductivity  
(blue,  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , left  
axis)



Turbidity (NTU)





# Challenges of a dry summer 2022

The dry summer of 2022 has been challenging for the Yazor Brook. Most of the brook through the city dried up completely. Where pools remained during July and August we carried out fish rescues, capturing more than 1000 fish and releasing them into the Wye where there was more flow.

One of the concerns regarding the low water levels in the brook, which has been slow to recover even with the high rainfall we have had recently, is that the levels of abstraction are excessive from this small tributary of the Wye. Investigations and research into this issue are ongoing and are part of our future work.

# Fish rescues - summer of 2022





# Tree Planting

Along Moor Park and just downstream from there, we planted single trees, corrals with multiple trees and a 100 tree plantation which was funded by the Rotary Club – all part of a busy winter tree planting programme.



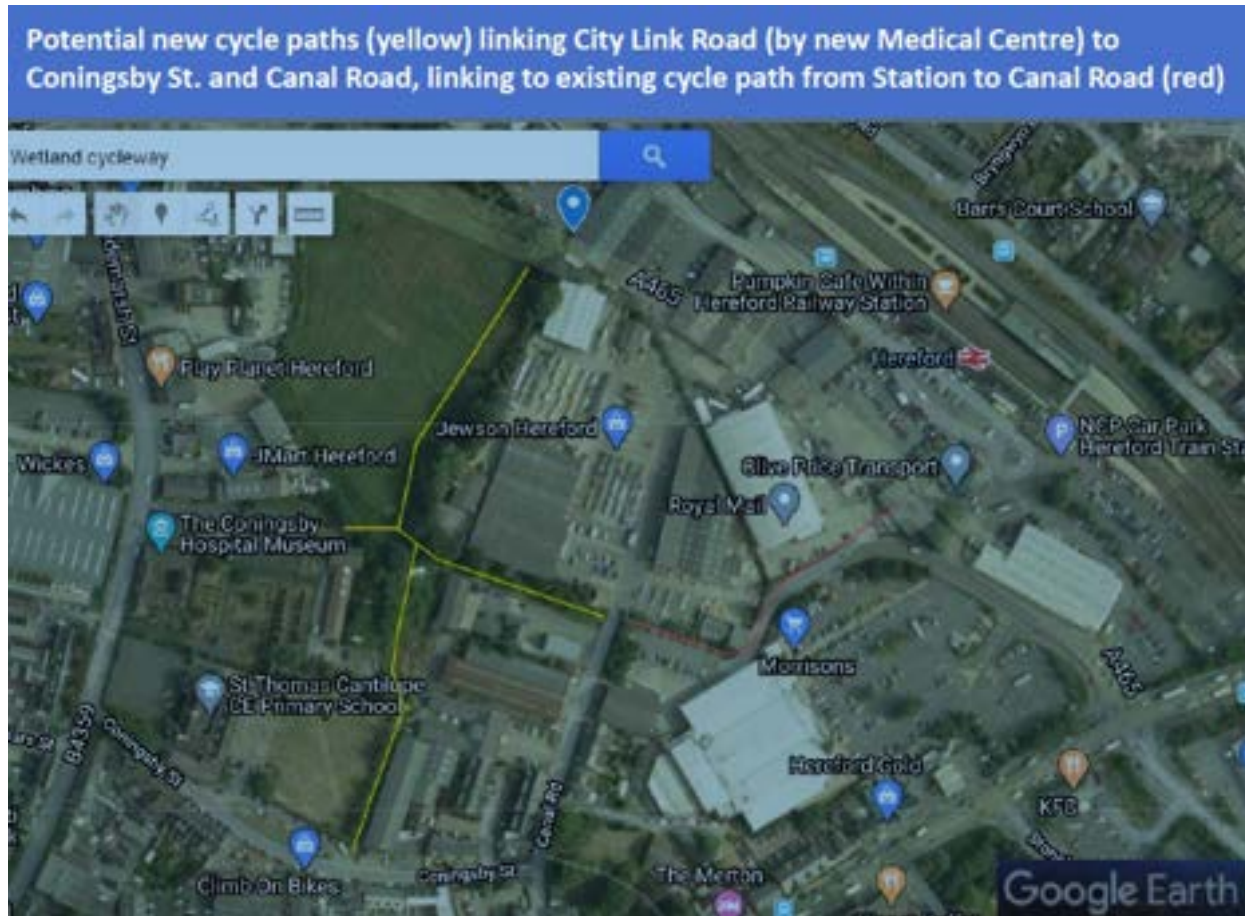


# Wetland Park Project

It might look like a patch of scrubby land on the City side of Hereford's link road, but we have our sights set on turning it into a Wetland Park which would act as a giant sponge to mitigate against flooding and provide a haven for wildlife and humans. We have started to audit the flora and fauna of the site, revealing a relatively rich biodiversity which would be enhanced by thoughtful planting. We continue to press to make this idea a reality.



# Wetland Park Project cont'd



We have met with Herefordshire Council and continue to have discussions with them to promote this idea. For more information about the Wetland Park proposal and for a link to Nicky Geeson's PDF outlining the possibilities of the site and benefits of the creation of this area as a wetland park go to: <https://www.herefordshirewt.org/news/wetland-reserve-proposal-hereford-city>



# Zoom Talks 2022

Our winter programme continued with talks from January through to April and resumed again October 2022 . If you missed any you can watch them on the HWT youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7JvxlsnFo95e9bIZ7UTGyw/videos>



# Live Events

- Morning Bird Walk with Bill Laws in Bartonsham Meadows
  - Crowd sourced Plant ID Greenway
  - Butterfly Walk Haugh Wood
  - Tim Kaye - Go Wild in the Park: Family Session & Botany Afternoon
  - City Branch combined with HWT Wildplay with a stall at the River Carnival
  - Moonlight Walk along the Yazor with Richard Bavin
  - Ben Taylor-Davies Regenerative Farm Walk
  - City Tree Walk with Nic Howes in partnership with Tree Warden Network
- \* Haugh Wood winter walk with Sam Price – Nature Recovery Network Officer



# A Birding Morning in May

Early May being the top time to go birding, seventeen people joined Friends of Bartonsham Meadows' Dick Jones and Bill Laws for an ornithological outing. The birders spent most of their time in the riverside sally wood - once the source of willow used by the city's basket makers for the municipal markets. Now it's a quiet haven for bird life and our birders enjoyed watching blackcap, blue, long tailed and great tits, chiff chaffs and goldcrests, along with robins, wrens, chaffinches, and a lone greenfinch.





# Plant ID Get Together

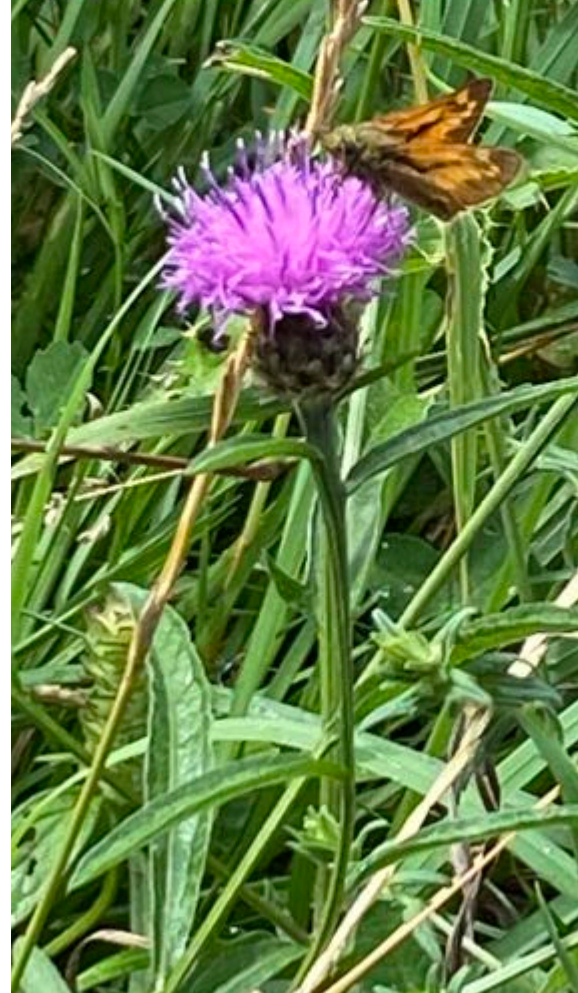
On a beautiful warm sunny evening in June, people answered our call bring their apps, their books and their expertise to put our heads together and spend the evening identifying plants by Greenway Bridge next to the Wye. All levels of experience were represented and we all enjoyed collaborating on working out what plants, common and less common, were thriving and surviving on this site. We plant to have more evenings like this in 2023.





# Butterfly Walk Haugh Wood

The ever engaging Martyn Davies guided us through two walks: one on the North side of the wood and one on South side. Over the day we identified 22 different species of butterflies, including a rare sighting of a purple hairstreak. We also spotted a White Letter Hairstreak, a unexpected delight as it was near the White Letter Hairstreak season.



Large skipper





Ben Taylor-Davies Regenerative  
Farm Visit



Moonlight Walk along the Yazor



# Partnerships & Collaborations

- Friends of Bartonsham Meadows
- Wilder Artists and Poets
- Whitecross Secondary School
- Tree Warden Network
- Rotary Club – Tree plantation
- Hereford Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Society

# Wilder Artists and Poets

Intrepid members of the the Wilder Artists and Poets group are seen here on one of City Branch intro tours along the length of Yazor Brook as it flows through Hereford. We are collaborating with them on their 2022-23 project focusing on the Brook which will culminate in exhibitions, participatory events, a photography competition and much more in July-August of 2023.





# Friends of Bartonsham Meadows

The Friends of Bartonsham Meadows are focussed on creating regenerative land-management practices, returning the land to a flood plain meadow rich in biodiversity which produces food sustainably. They are working with local bodies to try and make this possible. We share these aims and our members participated in FOBM activities such as dock audit. With overlapping personnel, we continue to see them as important partners.



Nipplewort



Docks

# Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Society

We are building relationships with Hereford Allotment and Leisure Gardens Society. In this photo volunteers are sowing seed from an HWT meadow into a derelict margin at Rockfied Allotments.





# Whitecross School

Whitecross Hereford High School formed a Climate and Sustainability Steering Group. Members of the City Branch have been working with them to improve the biodiversity of the school grounds. Plans include planting a hedge, planting a memorial tree and establishing a tree nursery to ensure a supply of trees to local schools.





# Campaigning

Wye July - Save the Wye Campaign  
Film screenings  
Wye campaign meetings





# Campaigning cont'd

For Wye July weekend organized by Save the Wye campaign, Maggie Setterfield and Jane Denny, with the help of colleagues, demonstrated how to do kick sampling on the Wye – the public were invited to discover the hidden world of invertebrates which they collected.



# Input into Herefordshire Master Plan

The City Branch is sometimes asked to contribute to Hereford City Council and Herefordshire County Council consultations. Recently Nichola Geeson and Nic Howes made representations to the Land Use Consultants (commissioned by the Council to undertake Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessments) on behalf of the City Branch with regard to the Hereford Master Plan. A short report on their meeting by Nichola Geeson is attached can be accessed on our web pages.



# New HWT Shop

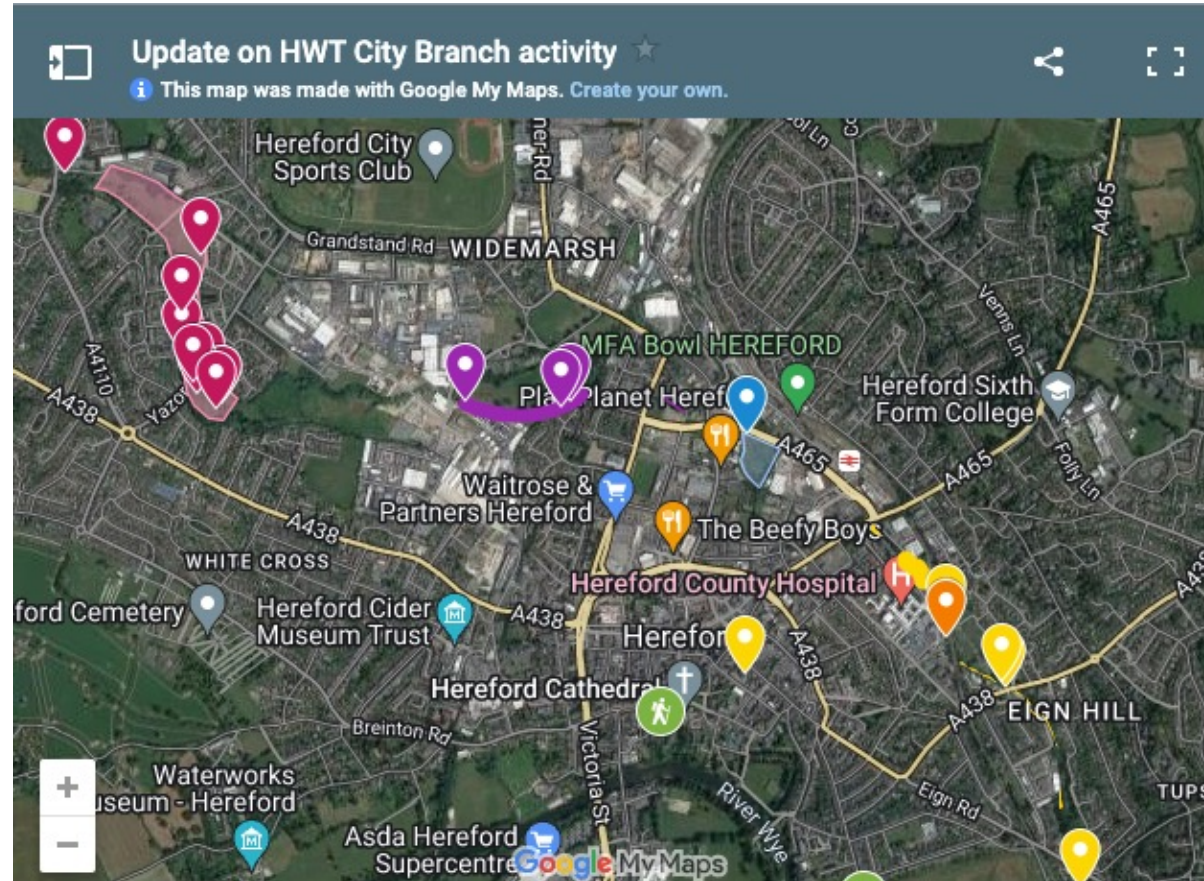


Check out the new HWT shop on Church Street in Hereford.

City Branch have long wanted a public-facing 'info-hub for nature' that can promote both general Wildlife Trust and City Branch projects in Hereford – so we were thrilled when HWT opened a new shop in Church Street. It is run by Debbie and her assistant Cathy, who would love to hear from volunteers to work in shop. And look out for City Branch forthcoming events on the shop's notice board!

[d.bean@herefordshirewt.co.uk](mailto:d.bean@herefordshirewt.co.uk)

# Our Web Pages



<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/wilderhereford>





[hfdcbranch@herefordshirewt.co.uk](mailto:hfdcbranch@herefordshirewt.co.uk)

# Statement of accounts for the Year Ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022



**HEREFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST CITY BRANCH (HWT City Branch)**  
**Statement of accounts for Year Ending March 31st, 2022**

- A Hereford City Council Grant, in July 2021 £2,827, issued for purchase of equipment and training 21-Aug. reflected in the accounts for Year ending March 2022.
- The Branch had no income for the year as all memberships are paid direct to the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and all events and donations were also paid for directly.
- \*Subsequent events: Aug 2022 £500 Awarded for Branch brooks project by Hereford City Council
- Dec 2022 Closing bank balance £945

**Income and Expenditure, Hereford City Branch Herefordshire Wildlife Trust**

Opening bank balance 1 April 2021	£0
19 August 2021 Grant from Hereford City Council	£2,827.98
24 September 2021 Deposit on electric brush cutters batteries	£500.00
2 February 2022 Purchase of brush cutters w/o batteries	£1,120.00
15 February 2022 Training in use of brush cutters	£762.50
Closing balance on 31 March 2022	£445.48*