

RVCWG Committee Members

Chair and Website Manager

Ben Holloway

Ben is a local ecologist, working for a nearby local authority covering planning ecology, management of nature reserves, ecological surveying activities, ecological data management and working with local groups within the authority area. Outside of work, Ben engages with many voluntary organisations and enjoys walking in the Rea Valley area. He is especially passionate about bats, amphibians, reptiles and accessibility of nature to all.

Secretary

Kat Edwards-White:

Always having an interest in the natural world, Kat pursued academic training in ecology and plant genetics. After a few years spent as a reserve warden in various locations across the country, Kat became an ecological apprentice for the Scottish Wildlife Trust. It was here, in Scotland, that Kat discovered an acute interest in botany and spent many hours alongside the Midlothian County Recorder learning the intricacies of plant ID.

Outside of working for a conservation charity, Kat explores the local area, surveying birds and finding new and exciting paths to follow - of course, recording plants along the way! When asked about her favourite past time the reply was "wearing my wellies and being knee deep in a bog".

Treasurer

Julian Bromhead

Julian is retired from a career in engineering and environmental consultancy.

He co-ordinates the Resting Hill nest box monitoring scheme and has participated in the RVCWG bird group surveys since their inception. He is a director of Shropshire Mines Trust and carries out maintenance work at the Snailbeach mine site.

Social Media and Newsletter Advertising

Laura Edwards-White:

Laura always thought that she would be working in conservation in one way or another for her whole life but during a hiatus in her mid 20s, after meeting someone with Dementia, everything changed. She started volunteering, then working for the British Red Cross and went on to spend the next 18 years in healthcare, working for numerous churches and charities. She hasn't lost her passion for nature and conservation but now says "I have two passions - if I'm working in one field then I am volunteering in the other". Laura spends her free time surveying birds and exploring the local area and strongly believes that everyone should have equal and fair access to nature. She says there is nothing she loves more than people sharing their enthusiasm for their surroundings and what they are finding in their local patch. She advocates for Community wildlife groups and believes they are an important link in connecting people with nature and improving our emotional and physical well-being.

Events Co-Ordinator and Notice Board Advertising

Siobhan Reedy

Until retiring in 2024, Siobhan was a local authority Arboricultural Officer. She now has more time to grow, plant and care for trees and engage in practical conservation and habitat improvement work. She has been actively involved with RVCWG since its inception and has coordinated the Habberley Brook nest box scheme since the early days of the group.

Data Specialist

Julian Livsey

After spending all day sitting in front of a screen, building databases and writing code for web applications, Julian loves getting out in the fresh air looking for wildlife. He is passionate about data gathering and biological recording, and how this can be used to the benefit of the local area. He collates the new RVCWG iRecord activity and sends you virtual high fives every time you upload a record.

Committee Member

Sarah Wallace – Johnson

Sarah has worked for Cambridge University for her whole career as a Natural Sciences Conservator specialising in geological collections. Sarah worked for The University Museum of Zoology in a research group studying the earliest land vertebrates from the Devonian of East Greenland. This involved field expeditions to Greenland & Svalbard and many years of lab work preparing the fossils. She then moved to The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences as Conservator, caring for the Museum's vast collections including Darwin's Beagle geological collection. After retiring Sarah moved back to Shropshire and is actively involved in volunteering for various wildlife organisations surveying and helping with reserve management.

Committee Member

Richard Gulliver

Dr Richard Gulliver is a nominally retired botanist, naturalist and ecological consultant who was fortunate enough to be able to spend 27 years - 1991 to 2017 - in the Hebrides. After returning to England, he has continued to pursue long-term interests including elms, grassland plant communities, wildlife gardening and historical ecology of woodlands. He is monitoring change in a woodland study plot at Earls Hill and has an article in press about a well-respected all round Leicestershire naturalist.