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West Midlands Branch

**AGM**

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

# Welcome



Unfortunately, due to illness, tonight's lecture by Dr Patricia Perez-Esteban is cancelled. We will let you know when this talk is rescheduled in the new year.

# RSB AGM

What is our Annual General Meeting (AGM)?

This is a meeting of the membership required by RSB bylaws, regulations and Royal Charter where members conduct business.

All RSB branches are required to hold an AGM each financial year (1<sup>st</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> September).

In practice, the AGM can be a very short session held before or after a regular branch event.

# Introductions

## **Current West Midlands Committee Members**

**Chair:** Dr Jill Johnson MRSB

**Vice Chair:** Dr Sue Howarth CBiol FRSB

**Treasurer:** Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB

**External Communication Secretary:** Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB

**Meetings Secretary:** Amelia Lakin AMRSB

**Student Engagement Coordinator:** Dr Phillip Young FRSB

**Events Coordinators:** Dr Caroline Day CBiol FRSB, Dr Daniel Franklin MRSB, **Ben Glover**, Dr Patricia Perez-Esteban MRSB, Laura Guest MRSB

**Honorary member:** Norma Broadbridge MBE FRSB

# Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Attendance and apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM of 17.11.2020
4. Review of committee roles
5. Election of Committee for 2021/22
6. Branch Annual Report, including events 2019/20; questions
7. Branch Treasurer's Report; questions
8. Future events
9. Prof. Nigel Brown (5 min)

AOB

# Apologies

Norma Broadbridge

Amelia Lakin

Dr Patricia Perez-Esteban

**Royal Society of Biology West Midlands Branch**  
**Annual General Meeting 17.11.2020 20:00**  
**Online Meeting and Talk via Zoom.**  
**Recorded by Amelia Lakin.**



# Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Draft Minutes

1. The purpose of the AGM was explained, and members and guests welcomed.
2. a. Attendees: Sue Howarth, Lesley Payne, Jill Johnson, Harriet Nolan, Karen Patel, Amelia Lakin, Daniel Franklin, Caroline Day, Norma Broadbridge, Laura Guest, Ben Glover, Patricia Perez-Esteban, Nigel Brown, Richard Coton, Elise Jansen (Non-member), Emma Pepperell (Non-member), Heather Gay, Jane Heathcock, Iwona Loza, Yuk Wah Tsang, Carl Bethell, Lesley-Jayne Powell, Penelope Angold, Emma Wilson, Mark Downs.  
b. Apologies: None.
3. Minutes of the AGM of 05.11.2019 were circulated and approved.  
Proposer: J. Johnson; Seconder: D. Franklin.
4. Review of committee roles: this was discussed and agreed that the committee could be flexible over changes in roles over the coming year.
5. Election of Committee for 2020/21 – committee nominations had been circulated to all WM members well in advance of the AGM. No additional nominations were received during the meeting.
  - a. Committee members remaining in their former roles were agreed with no objections.  
Proposer: H. Nolan; Seconder: R. Coton.
  - b. Those switching roles were J. Johnson taking up the position of Chair, and S. Howarth to become Vice Chair. N. Broadbridge accepted the role of Honorary Consultant to the committee.  
Proposer: J. Johnson; Seconder: L. Payne.
  - c. Two new members were elected onto the committee (L. Guest and P. Perez-Esteban).  
Proposer: S. Howarth; Seconder: A. Lakin.

Committee members S. Williams and L. Orsini took a step down from the committee for the foreseeable future, but will be in contact if their circumstances change. They were thanked for their time on the committee.

6. The Branch Annual Report including events 2019/20 was presented. The PowerPoint is attached to these Minutes. No questions were received.
7. The Branch Treasurer's Report was presented. The report was accepted.  
Proposer: J. Johnson; Secunder: N. Broadbridge.
8. Future events were discussed. The effects of social distancing and the further suspension of in-person events until the start of the new year was discussed, and ideas for future online events were reviewed.
9. Nigel Brown discussed his role as a Council Member and Chair of College of Individual Members, Royal Society of Biology. Described some new features of the website accessible to members. Discussed the need for Chartered Biologists, CBiol. No questions were asked, and his email provided.
10. Thanks were given to all committee members and RSB members for attending the event and to Dr Deborah Wright and to Professor Nigel Brown for their contributions.

The AGM was preceded by a talk at 19.00, given by Dr Deborah Wright, Grad CIEEM, Wilder Future Officer, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on Hedgehogs: their ecology and conservation. A good number of RSB members attended this talk and took the opportunity to ask Dr Deborah Wright questions. Thirty-seven participants attended the lecture. Twenty-seven stayed for the AGM, of whom 21 were members.

Branch Report 2019-2020 can be found on the separate PowerPoint.



# Minutes of the 2020 AGM

# Review of Committee Roles

**Chair**

**Vice Chair**

**Treasurer**

**External Communication Secretary**

**Meetings Secretary**

**Student Engagement Coordinator**

**Events Coordinators**

# Voting

1. Current committee members staying in same role
2. Current committee members changing role
3. *Nomination forms received for new committee members*

# Voting

1. Motion is Proposed or Moved
2. Motion is Seconded
3. Motion is opened to General Debate
4. When debate is done Proposer has Right of Reply
5. Vote is Taken

Absent members may vote by email or in writing to the branch secretary or other nominated branch officer before the AGM takes place.

# Election of Committee 2020-2021



**Chair:** Dr Jill Johnson MRSB

**Treasurer:** Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB

**External Communication Secretary:** Lesley Payne CBiol MRSB

**Meetings Secretary:** Amelia Lakin AMRSB

**Student Engagement Coordinator:** Dr Phillip Young FRSB

**Events Coordinators:**

Dr Caroline Day CBiol FRSB; Dr Patricia Perez-Esteban; Dr Daniel Franklin MRSB;  
*Laura Guest*

**Honorary Consultants:** Norma Broadbridge MBE FRSB, Ben Glover



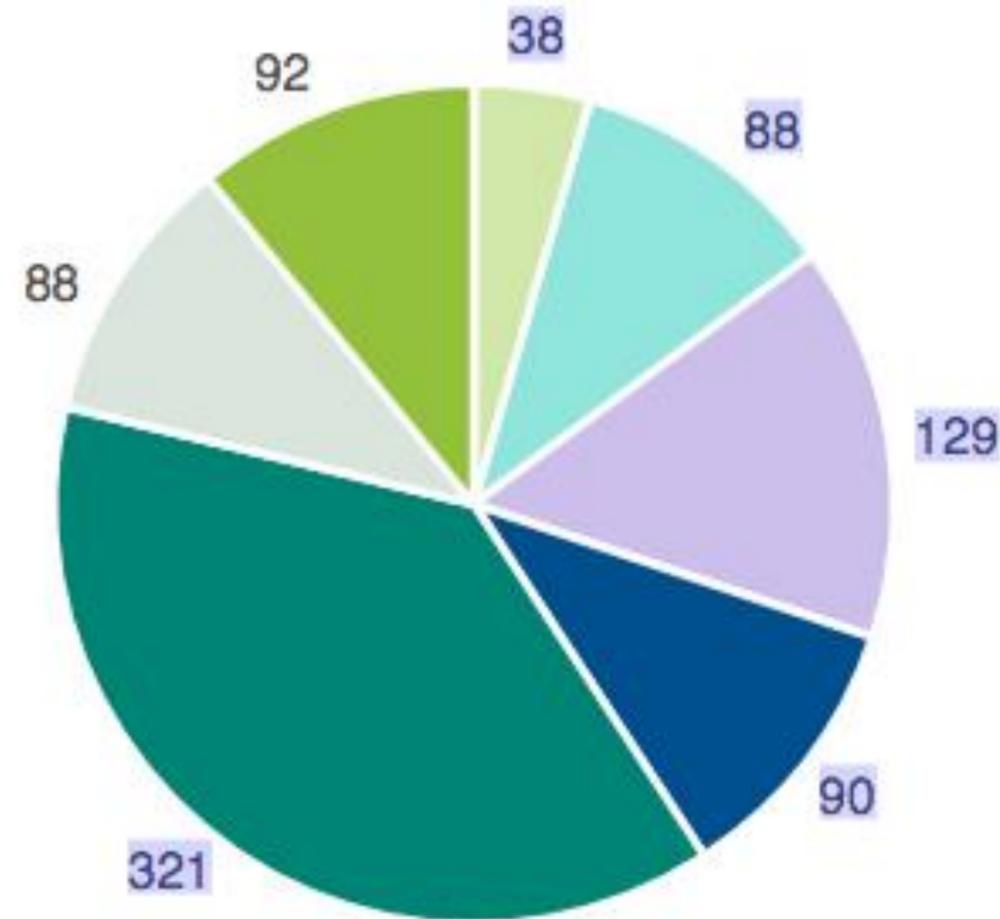
# Branch Annual Report – by numbers



- 1 Charter lecture (1)
- 0 new committee members (2)
- 0 non-online talks (3)
- 0 venues (4)
- 4 committee meetings (5)
- 13 events (13)
- 687 Twitter followers @RSBWestMids (490)
- 111 Instagram followers @rsb\_west\_midlands (89)

Jan 2020

West Midlands branch members by county



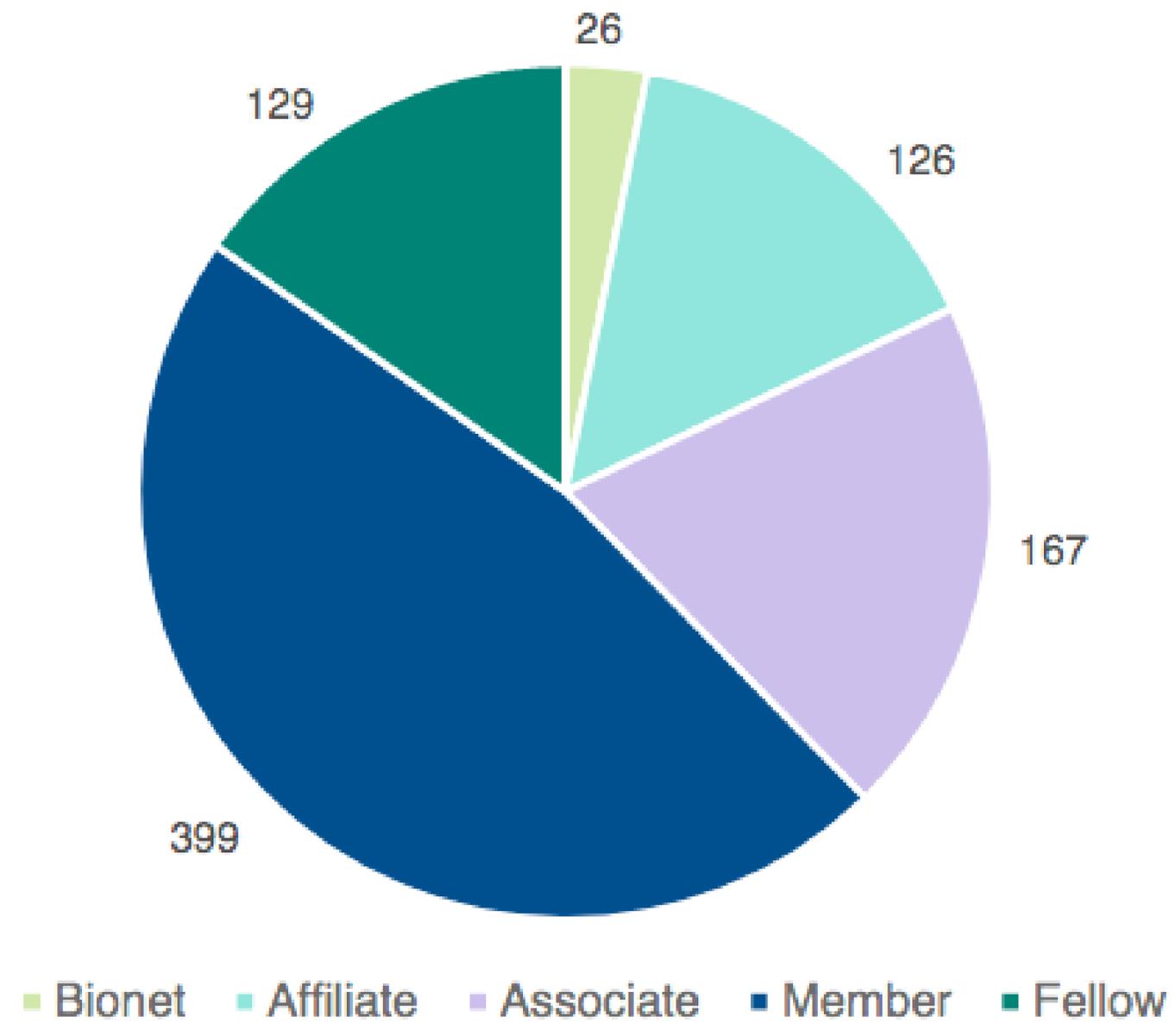
- Herefordshire
- Shropshire
- Staffordshire
- Warwickshire
- West Midlands
- Worcestershire
- Other

## West Midlands

Branch members: **847**

Jan 2020

Membership grade of West Midlands branch



# Events 2020-2021



- **Monthly virtual quizzes** (nine in 2021, with one coming up on 17<sup>th</sup> December)
  - Birth, Growth and Regeneration Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January
  - Biology at the Movies Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February
  - What makes us sick: Genes, Environment and Lifestyle Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March
  - Milestones in Biology: Botany, Zoology and Medicine Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April
  - Food, Fashion and Forensics 7<sup>th</sup> May
  - Microbes: Viruses, Bacteria and Fungi 4<sup>th</sup> June
  - Biology in Birmingham 2<sup>nd</sup> July
  - Biology on the Telly 6<sup>th</sup> August
  - Changes in Biology 3<sup>rd</sup> September

→ featured in The Biologist and at the RSB Branch Success Stories meeting 4<sup>th</sup> June

- **Shrewsbury Darwin Festival talk** *Unnatural Selection* given by Katrina van Grouw, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February
- **Virtual talk** *The Goldilocks Principle - How Plants Chose the Right Mate* given by Dr Mike Wheeler Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April
- **Virtual talk** *The Life Beneath Our Feet* given by Dr Simon Jeffery Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

See our branch events reports page for more details

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/regional-activity/england/west-midlands/reports>

# November AGM & Hedgehog Talk



## AGM and Hedgehog Talk

The West Midlands branch Annual General Meeting will follow a talk on hedgehog ecology, conservation, and habitat improvement delivered by Dr Deborah Wright.

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 | 19:00-20:30

**Location:** Online (Zoom)

**Price:** Free

Find out more about us:

[www.rsb.org.uk/WestMidlands](http://www.rsb.org.uk/WestMidlands)



Biology

Week

# Charter Lecture: 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021

## Biology Week: 2021 Charter Lecture and Q&A

This year's annual RSB West Midlands branch Charter Lecture will be delivered by Professor Philip Young FRSB from the University of Warwick. The talk will cover spinal muscular atrophy, the new therapies available and the drive for genetic screening.

**Date:** Wednesday 6 October | 19:00-20:30

**Location:** Online (Zoom)

**Price:** Free



# Online Committee Meetings in February, May, July, and September

# Questions

# Branch Treasurer's Report



Delivered by Lesley Payne

# Questions

# Future Events



# Christmas Lecture

## The Science of Christmas

Join the branch for a festive talk delivered by Dr Kate Ashbrook, senior lecturer in biology at the University of Worcester, looking at the science surrounding the holiday season.

**Date:** Thursday 9 December | 19:00-20:00 GMT

**Location:** Online (Zoom)

**Price:** Free



# December Quiz and Holiday Social



## Virtual Quiz – Winter Wonderland

The West Midlands branch is back with another fun and informative quiz to celebrate the winter holidays! This Winter Wonderland quiz will have rounds on festivities, feasting, and fitness.

**Date:** Friday 17 December | 19:00-20:00 GMT

**Location:** Online (Zoom)

**Price:** Free



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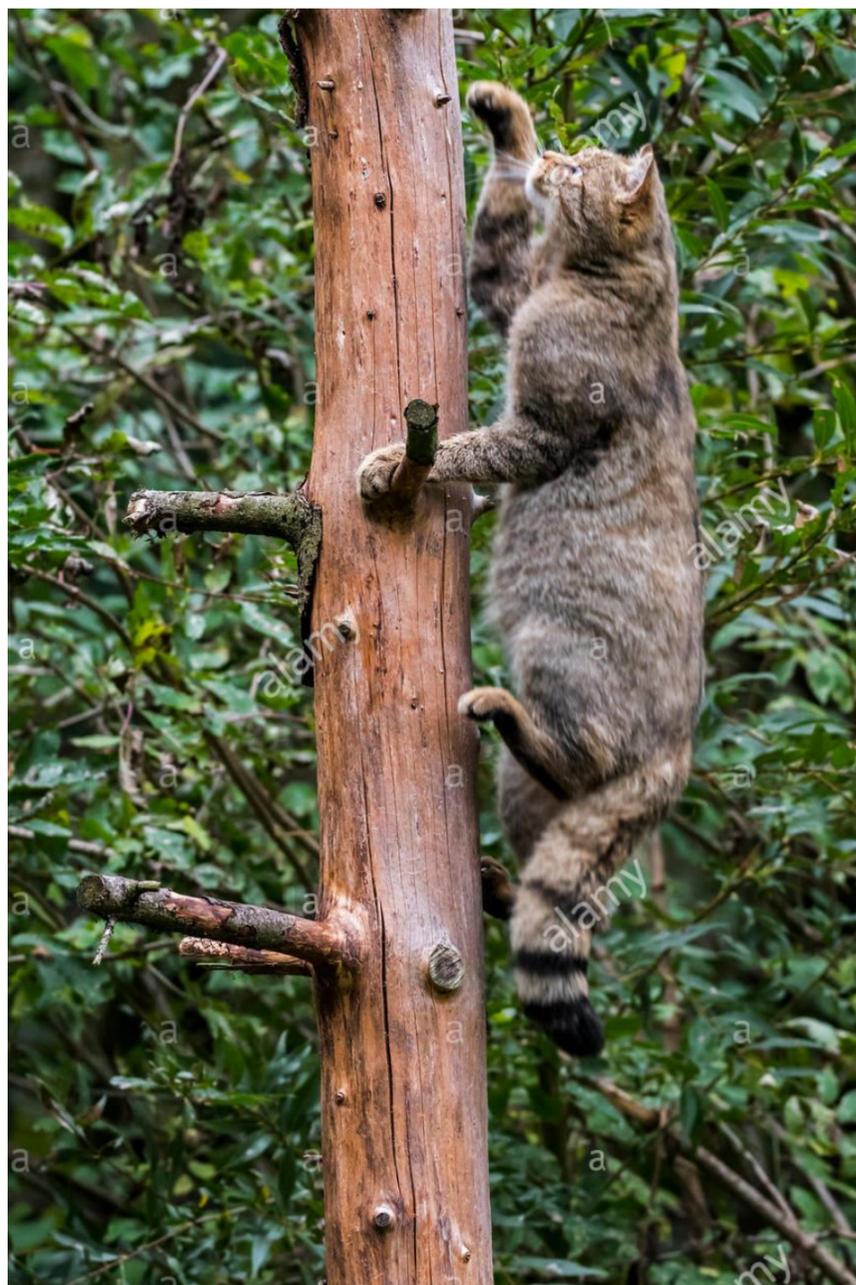
# Worcester Medical Museum



A guided tour and talk of this fascinating facility

Planned for early 2022  
(COVID-19 regulations permitting)

# From *Felis* to Felix: The Genetics of Domestic Cats



**Date:** Sat 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022 3:00

pm

**Speaker:** Dr Jill Johnson MRSB  
Senior Lecturer in Biomedical  
Sciences

Aston University, Birmingham UK

**Venue:** Zoom



Prof Nigel Brown



Any other business

