

A sustainable future for wildlife and people

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Nature reserves

Devizes and Roundway Orchard and Old Cricket Field



History

Roundway Hospital in Devizes, originally called the Wiltshire County Lunatic Asylum and then the Wiltshire County Mental Hospital, opened in September 1851 to provide a home and therapy for 'pauper lunatics'.

Architect Thomas Henry Wyatt designed the Italianate-style main building, which now contains houses. He used Bath stone from Wiltshire's Murhill quarry and Welsh slate for the roof.

The first Medical Superintendent was Dr. John Thurnam, a well-respected psychiatrist born near York.

Built to house 250 patients, demand soon outstripped space and further hospital buildings were added. At its peak (1943) it provided a home for more than 1,500 patients.

It finally closed its doors in 1995.

The hospital cemetery remains near Drews Pond.

Cricket field

Set in 278 acres of lawns and woodland the hospital offered numerous social activities for patients, including dinner dances, country walks, sport, dancing classes and film screenings.

It also had a farm, orchard and a market garden, which provided a therapeutic work space as well as food for the larder.

By 1880 cricket was played at the hospital. The Annual Report for 1937-38 said:

"Football and cricket teams are now well established and their matches with other hospitals are looked forward to with the keenest interest.

"It is not such a simple matter to provide games for women patients, but on one afternoon a week during winter they played badminton in the recreation hall and we have communal games of hockey on the cricket field."

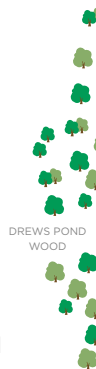
We will keep the old cricket field as an open space for local people to enjoy informal recreation, games and picnics. Devizes Town Council has agreed to cut the grass for this purpose.

Orchard

We don't know exactly when the Bramley apple orchard was planted but the Annual Report for 1942-43 said "for the first time, a good crop of apples was obtained from the new orchard adjoining the cricket field".

By the late 1980s these trees were old and diseased and volunteers, working with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, have been gradually replacing them with Wiltshire varieties such as Roundway Magnum Bonum.

Orchards are important for wildlife. Pollinating insects explore the flower-rich grass between the trees; they in turn attract birds and bats. Butterflies like the **brimstone, orange-tip**, red admiral and tortoiseshell feast on nectar in the fruit blossom.



DREWS POND
WOOD



Fieldfare
Pete Blanchard



Treecreeper
Pete Blanchard



Long-tailed tit
Pete Blanchard



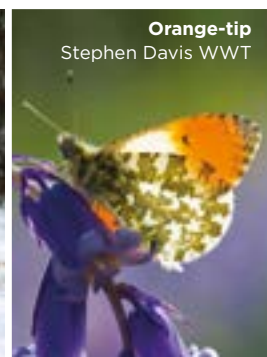
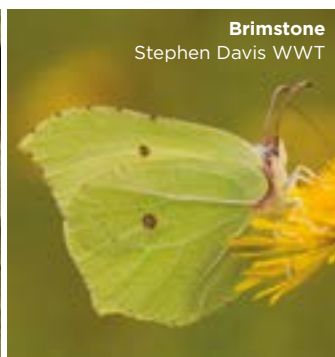
Old trees and areas of dead wood provide homes for lichens and beetles. Apple windfalls provide life-saving meals in cold weather for redwing, **fieldfare** and **fox**.

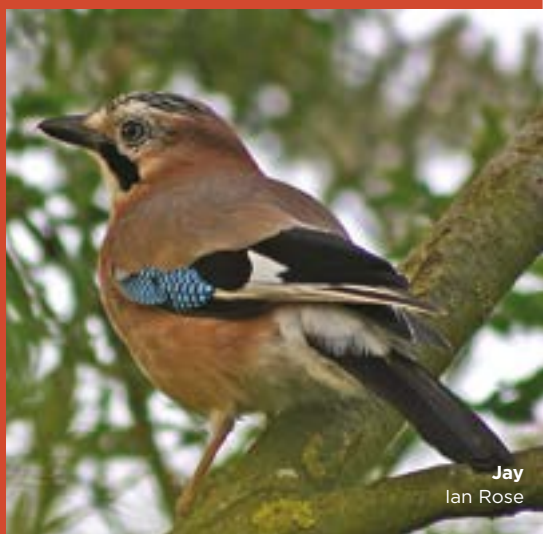
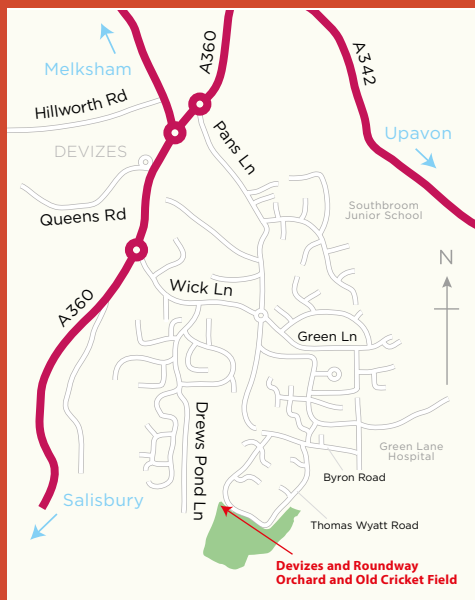
Sadly Britain has lost about two thirds of its orchards since 1960 – devastating for wildlife.

Many birds visit the orchard and cricket field. See if you can spot **long-tailed tit**, great

spotted woodpecker, **green woodpecker**, jay, buzzard, robin, blackbird, nuthatch and **tree creeper**.

We want to thank Devizes residents and organisations for supporting our appeal to buy the land. Particular thanks go to Stuart and Lorna Hislop and others from **Drevs Pond Wood Project**; Devizes Town Council, Roundway Parish Council and Wiltshire Council.





Jay
Ian Rose

Location

Postcode (nearest) SN10 5FQ

**OS map grid reference: SU 008592
(centre of cricket field)**

If driving The roads adjacent to the site are private and no access or parking is permitted. Please park on Green Lane and walk along Byron Road onto Thomas Wyatt Road to access the site.

If using bus From Devizes town centre, take the 1A to Green Lane Hospital or the 1B to Pans Lane.

If cycling Access via Green Lane and Byron Road. Thomas Wyatt Road is private.

Access Level easy walking on reserve. Wear wellies or stout shoes in winter. No specific wheelchair paths. Dogs on a short lead are welcome. Please bag and bin any dog poo.

Volunteering If you would like to help manage the site please contact (01380) 725670.

Nearby reserves Morgan's Hill, Penn Wood.

About Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Our vision is to create a county rich in wildlife and help people live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment for the benefit of everyone.

We have more than 18,000 members, look after 37 nature reserves, are supported by hundreds of volunteers, and work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims. To do all this we rely on the support of our members.

If you would like to join us, or to find out about how you can help the environment please visit **www.wiltshirewildlife.org**

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