

MY WILD LIFE



Mayor of Dudley

Councillor David Stanley has chosen the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country as one of his nominated charities during his Mayoral year.



What was your first memory of green space or wildlife?

I had an enjoyable childhood growing up and playing in the green fields on the periphery of the countryside where I was born and grew up - in Ruiton, Gornal; the green open spaces I played in are some of my fondest, earliest memories. The area was well known for producing some of the most sought-after bricklayers and also, in those days, Gornal sandstone was being quarried, mostly used for stone walling and later producing silica sand for the foundry industry. I also enjoyed the overhead railway at Baggeridge colliery and from my house, high up, I watched them transport the coal from the pithead to the trucks.

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What is your favourite species of animal or plant?

I have a great interest in wildlife and was brought up to appreciate nature. I don't have a particular favourite species because all wildlife is to be admired and appreciated.

Why did you choose the Wildlife Trust as one of your Mayoral charities?

I put a lot of thought into my chosen charities and based my choice on the organisations' commitment to improving Dudley borough and also what people have told me about what a great job they do. I see the amount of time and effort the Wildlife Trust has given to the borough and how worthwhile the work is. Local people get support from the work you are doing and I wanted to support an organisation that is giving something back to the borough.

Tell us about your history of volunteering

I've enjoyed supporting a lot of different organisations throughout my life. I have been a governor of a local primary school for more than 30 years and am currently

Chairman of Friends of Sedgley Beacon. I can remember on a hot day around seven years ago dragging bales of hay with the Wildlife Trust to create a meadow here at Sedgley Beacon.

What are your fears and hopes for nature in the future?

There are a lot of good people who enthusiastically care about protecting local green spaces, including lots of younger people, which is great to see. I see a positive future of working in partnership to retain our green and pleasant land. Personally I have advocated for kerbside recycling here in the borough and it is important for local residents to separate their waste to avoid contamination.

What do you like about Sedgley Beacon?

I have always had a passion for Sedgley Beacon, partly through my school days as I was educated at Dormston School, which was very close to this site. Sedgley Beacon has always been accepted as being a premium part of Sedgley, standing at 777 feet above sea level, and locals took pride in using the name 'Beacon'. It has been extensively used for many decades by local businesses on trademarks for their products. I appreciate the beauty that Sedgley Beacon has to offer, including the panoramic views of the countryside and industrial history.

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What has been your most memorable experience as Mayor of Dudley?

I've had some wonderful opportunities during my time as Mayor and have been particularly impressed by the talented and skilful young people I have met. It has been a great pleasure and honour to have served as the Mayor of Dudley for the second time, which has left me with a lot of wonderful memories of the borough and its surrounding area. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my 13-month-old great nephew who has recently found a new interest in wildlife and especially the birds in his garden!

Sedgley Beacon

A limestone hill from the top of which are panoramic views of the Black Country, Birmingham and the Shropshire Hills; Sedgley Beacon is best known for the Beacon Tower - a Grade II listed structure erected in 1846.

The area is a great place to see wildlife including skylark, raven, peregrine falcon, marbled-white butterfly and flower-rich limestone grassland. Preserved within the open space are historic features including field boundaries, ancient trackways and a limestone quarry.



 **Register as a volunteer here**
bbcwildlife.org.uk/volunteer