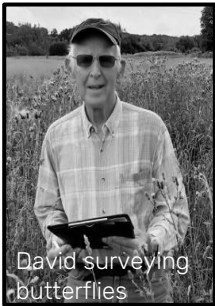




Spring 2022 Newsletter



David surveying butterflies

At the last A.G.M. David retired as Chair of our local group. He had been Chair for six years and had served on the committee for 17, 11 of those organising our walks. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and the massive contribution he has made to our local group.

Boxing Day Otters

Boxing Day morning was not promising, grey with a light drizzle. Nevertheless, determined to work off an excess of mince pies and Christmas cake, I set off on a familiar walk along the canal towpath from Kidderminster to Stourport.

Apart from the melancholy songs of the ever-present robins, there was little sign of bird life on such a dull day. A couple of blackbirds desultorily probed the dank leaf mould and a few great tits moved along the hedgerow.

A grey heron at the side of the canal let me approach to within about five yards before clumsily taking off and resuming its silent vigil 20 yards away on the opposite bank.

I turned off the canal bank and walked along the footpath that headed towards a footbridge over the River Stour and a path up to Wilden church.

Upstream, where the water eddied slightly beyond a fallen tree, I saw a disturbance in the water. I assumed it was a goosander as I'd seen one or two of them here before. Instead of the familiar duck resurfacing, I was amazed to see a flank roll over and then a whiskery face!



Grey heron by Wendy Carter



Otter by Ken Broadmore

An otter swam, dived and rolled over in a river made high by recent rain. After a couple of minutes I noticed a movement on the bank and saw a second otter slither into the water.

For several minutes, both otters swam round in circles as though chasing each other, disappearing then reappearing.

One climbed momentarily back onto the bank, changed its mind and returned to the river. They suddenly disappeared on the other side of the tree.

A miserable grey day had suddenly been transformed into a memorable one.

Chris Morris

Thank you Chris.

If anyone else feels that they would like to contribute an article, please get in touch.

We would love to hear from you.

Ruth Howell
Editor



Walks

April to July 2022

All walks start at 10.a.m. and everyone is very welcome

There is no charge but donations are appreciated

Sunday 10th April
The Nature of Longmore Farm
Chaddesley Corbett
Led by Gordon Forrest

A circular walk through the beautiful fields of Longmore Farm. Gordon will point out the nature and wildlife features he has been observing here for over 30 years, including a kingfisher nesting bank. A leisurely walk of about two miles.

Meet: The farm entrance just off Dobes Lane off the Bromsgrove Road (A488)
DY10 4RE GR883727

Sunday 8th May
A Ramble from Romsley
Led by Glyn Walters

A rural circular walk through meadows and woodland in local farmland near Romsley and Walton Hill with spectacular views of Client, Walton and Malvern hills.

This is a walk of 4.5 miles and has three stiles. Some walking along quiet lanes and a climb up Walton Hill.

Meet: Car park at Romsley Recreation ground.
B62 OPT GR: 958799

Sunday 12th June
An Orchid Walk at Hawkbatch Woods
led by Chris Morris and Roma Bubb

A lovely walk to view some of the abundant wildflowers including common spotted orchids. Good views of Trimpley Reservoir and the River Severn.

Approximately three and a half miles.

Meet: Hawkbatch car park on the right of the B4194 Bewdley to Button Oak road.
Nearest PC DY12 3AF GR:763766



Glyn leading a walk last September around Harvington



David leading a walk in January near Shatterford

Sunday 10th July
Exploring around Drakelow and the Horsley Hills
Led by Jean Maffei

A circular, interesting walk through fields, flower meadows and woodland in our local area.

A walk of about three miles with several stiles

Meet: At the far end of the Queens head car park in Wolverley
DY115XB GR: 828795

**Our Indoor meetings will restart
on Thursday September 1st**

For further information please contact :

Ruth Howell

ruth.howell@hotmail.co.uk 01562 741891

For information about the walks please contact:

Glyn Walters

glynandlinda@hotmail.com 01562 637556

Thank you all for your valuable, continued support