



**Worcestershire**  
Wildlife Trust

# Wyre Forest Local Group

*Spring newsletter 2025*

## **The story of the Devil's Spadeful (Spittleful)**

*(A much shorter version taken from the Epic Poem by George Griffiths 1839)*

The Old Mughouse fireside was nightly greeted by its throng. A merry pleasure loving set, neighbours, kinsmen and old folk, who erst in Bewdley nightly met. To quaff homebrew and crack their joke.

And amongst them with his merry tale, The Cobbler gained each listening ear. His tongue was never known to fail, as long as it was wet with beer. He lived from thence, four long miles, and as he felt himself at home, he thought upon the awkward stiles and did not care by night to roam. But all things have an end in time and Cobblers must give way to fate, St Anne's told twelve in lengthened chime. The landlord hinted it was late, for one by one had bid goodnight. The Cobbler left and was on his way. And thus between his staggering, swearing, bawling singing staves and roaring, he lost his natural upright bearing and took a fit of easy snoring.

When the Devil rose, put on his clothes and sallied out in haste. Bring a spade the Devil said that is both strong and new. I vow by Jove who reigns above, that Bewdley town should rue. He thus averred, that having heard the folk of Bewdley town had risen high in great Jove's eye for being pious grown.

With spade and net then off he set, with many a fearful stride. He never felt lame until he came a mile from Severnside. When straight before he heard a snore, so long and deep, that made him stare and look with care. When soon he found, upon the ground the Cobblers outstretched form.

The cobbler asked where Old Nick was bound, Bewdley, the Devil said. 'Do you live near?' I live nowhere near the town you say, what's your business in Bewdley town? 'This spadeful of clay that's in my hand, will easily stay the river which past Bewdley flows, which will easily drown all friends and foes.' The Cobbler said 'You see this old bag of shoes that I bear, I've worn each one since I left Bewdley town. 'What! Can that be true? Said the Devil, I'll never more war with these Bewdley folks. With that he soon threw down the clay from his spade.

'So now that all ye that love brown ale, pray take warning from this tale, Whene'er ye go to drink your mugs, don't stop to finish up with jugs, or else the hours will steal away, and homeward as you reeling stray, you surely sometimes will get evil, or like the Cobbler, meet the Devil.

For further information about the group please contact: Joan Kearton-Jones [joan.kj@sky.com](mailto:joan.kj@sky.com)

## Talks

Everyone is welcome to join us at Holy Innocents Community Hall, Kidderminster at 7.30 p.m.  
Admission £3

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025: "Aliens in the Garden and the Environment" by Roger Umpelby**

We warmly welcome back Roger who has been a consultant entomologist for over 40 years. It will be interesting to find out all about the aliens around us!

## Walks

All start at 10.a.m. Donations to the Trust. Well behaved dogs on a lead welcome.

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025: "In Search of Wood anemones" - led by Jackie and Paul**

*Walking through a reclaimed industrial area, viewing waterfalls and anemones.*

**Details:** Approx. three miles / 150 steps / there may be stiles

**Meet:** Alveley Country Park, WV15 6NG. Parking £2.50 for over two hours cash or card

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025: "Searching for Dragons" - led by Hazel Rogers**

*A slow walk through mixed woodland and looking out for emergent dragonflies.*

**Details:** Three miles / no stiles

**Meet :** Hawksbatch car park. Bewdley Road (B4194) DY12 3AF

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025: "Walk exploring the Wyre Forest" - led by Roma Budd & Chris Morris**

*Looking at flora & fauna & hearing about the history & folklore of the forest*

**Details:** Approx. three miles / no stiles

**Meet:** Earnswood car park (B4194) DY12 3AL

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025: "A Ramble Around Clent" - led by Glyn Walters**

*A circular walk to the hill monument at Wychbury. Splendid views of Malvern & Clee Hills.*

**Details:** Several hill climbs

**Meet:** Nimmings car park - fees apply (car park free to National Trust Members only) B62 ONL

A big **thank you** to Glyn Walters for his many years organising our walks and trips for us.

For more information about our walks, please contact either:

Roma Budd: [budd.roma@outlook.com](mailto:budd.roma@outlook.com)

or

Chris Morris: [chrismorris222@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismorris222@btinternet.com)

**You can also find out more information at: [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk)**

*Your editor - Caris Edwards*