



In this issue:

- **Newsletter to be suspended.**
If you wish to contribute an article for inclusion in the newsletter please Email: Strideandstroll2015@mybtinternet.com
- **Out and About.**
The Wyre Forest has plenty to offer at this time of year.
- **Notice Board.**
May attendance figures.

Newsletter will be suspended in July.

Holidays, other commitments and a general lack of things to write about has brought about the decision to suspend the newsletter with effect from July.

Hopefully things will pick up and we will be able to return in August

Out and About

WHERE TO GO WILD IN JUNE AND JULY

LOCATION

Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve
Dry Mill Lane Car Park—next to the dismantled railway line.
Grid Ref: SO763765
Nearest Postcode: DY12 2LX

WHY VISIT?

Plan to walk the dismantled railway line at dusk, with a head-torch/ordinary torch. Walk a distance along the line, looking for the light of glow-worms, close to the edge of the line. Choose to search one side up and the other side down; looking for a yellow-green light, which is a cold light, as hardly any heat is produced.



The Common European Glow-Worm [Lampyris noctiluca] is a beetle, where the adult females do not fly, but the males are winged and can fly. Adult females produce a yellow-green light from the last three segments of their abdomen; they do this to attract the winged males. Once mated, the female stops producing light and lays between 50-100 eggs, deposited in moss/grass.

The eggs hatch into larvae, which can also glow; they feed for 2-3 years, on slugs/snails and then complete their life cycle, becoming an adult beetle. Adult beetles die after mating/laying eggs; their chemically produced light, is an example of bioluminescence.

Wyre Forest Discovery Centre
Callow Hill, next to the A456, 3 miles west of Bewdley.
Grid Ref: SO750740
Nearest Postcode: DY14 9XQ

Dusk Walks—June 24th and July 1st 2016—ADVISABLE TO CHECK DATES/TIME.
8.45pm—11pm £5 per person—booking essential. Take a torch and warm clothes if needed.

The guided walks will have bat detectors to listen to the calls of bats and there is a possibility of seeing glow-worms. The dusk walks offer an opportunity to hear/see some of the nocturnal life, in Wyre Forest.

Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve is a stronghold for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly, which has suffered a decline in numbers. Coppicing has created woodland clearings and dry, grassy areas have been created, to attract the butterfly. It is essential, that the food plant of the caterpillar is abundant; for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, this is the Common Dog Violet.

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Pearl-bordered Fritillary





Out and About (continued)



FOCUS ON THE PEARL-BORDERED FRITILLARY.

Adult butterflies on the wing from May-June, often flying low and feeding on the nectar from flowers like Bugle. Prefer woodland clearings and well-drained, grassy areas, along the verge of woodland roadways. Eggs are laid on the Common Dog Violet and the caterpillars are black, with two rows of yellowish spines on their back. Overwinters as a caterpillar, hibernating from August to March.

Use an identification guide to distinguish between the Pearl-bordered Fritillary and the Small-Pearl-bordered Fritillary, which flies at the same time and prefers the same habitat. www.britishbutterflies.co.uk/identification.asp Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve has both species: possible sites are Earnwood Copse, Longdon Orchard, Longdon Wood and Withered Wood. Forest management has also helped establish, populations of the

Silver-washed Fritillary,



and the Grizzled-Skipper.



June is a good month to see Early Purple Orchids and Common Spotted Orchids. They are widespread but local in distribution; preferred habitats are—meadows, dry/damp grassland, open woodland, hedge-banks and roadside verges.

Where you may see these orchids:

Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve---along the Elan Valley pipeline and close to Huntsfield Cottage in Eymore Wood [Trimpley]. Knapp and Papermill Reserve [Worcestershire Wildlife Trust], Bridges Stone, Nr Alfrick, Worcester WR6 5HR Grid Ref: SO751522 Stockings Meadow [Herefordshire Nature Trust], Green Lane, Nr Bromyard, Herefordshire HR7 4RY GridRef: SO634546

June has an abundance of flowering, wild flowers. From May into June, roadside verges, hedge-banks, shady churchyards and woodland edges, are taken over, by the white flowers of Cow Parsley [Queen Anne's Lace]. Belonging to the carrot and parsnip family [Apiaceae], the flat-topped flowers [umbels] and fern like leaves, are supported on a hollow stem, which can be over a metre tall. An abundance of Cow Parsley in flower and the eye connects with drifts, of white, frothy flowers.

If the leaves are bruised, they release an aniseed scent; **BUT BEWARE**, some related flowers are poisonous and have an irritating sap.

USE AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO KNOW RELATED SPECIES TO COW PARSLEY:

Ground Elder
Wild Parsnip
Wild Carrot
Hogweed---**the sap in the presence of sunlight, can blister/burn the skin.**
Hemlock---**poisonous.**
Fool's Parsley---**poisonous.**
Pignut.



Giant Hogweed



Hemlock



Fools Parsley



**stride
and
stroll**



Notice Board

MAY REVIEW

Saturday walk date	Thursday numbers		May 2016					Saturday Totals	Weekly Totals
			A	AB	B	C	D		
07/05/16	47	Saturday	13	21	18	15	15	82	129
14/05/16	33	Saturday	19	24	11	17	20	91	124
21/05/16	42	Saturday	14	18	12	9	11	64	106
28/05/16	45	Saturday	17	20	21	18	19	95	140
								0	0
Totals	167		63	83	62	59	65	332	499
Average miles per person	0.5		7.0	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.0	Saturday Mileage	1566.0
Mileage per Group	83.5		441.0	415.0	279.0	236.0	195.0	Month's total Mileage	1649.5