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I visited a black and white village in Herefordshire which has plenty of interest and a wealth of walking country nearby.
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On a recent visit to Weobley in Herefordshire I made a point of looking out for the Cruck framed 14th century Red Lion cottage, as shown and described on several tourist leaflets.

Before my visit I looked up the building on the Geograph website and I found this picture.

On this month's notice board page you will see what the October 2016 cottage looks like.

Spot the difference!!!

Weobley

Reportedly less than 10 miles from the centres of Hereford and Leominster, Weobley is described as

'The Jewel in the crown of the Black and White Village trail'

In Weobley many aspects of 1500 years of British history are represented. From its Saxon origins, through the Norman Conquest to the medieval period, the Civil War, and the agricultural revolution. Here you will discover the remains of an 11th Century castle, a 12th Century Church and many houses from the 14th Century onwards.



One of the first unusual sites is the village filling station.

It's not every day that you see fuel pumps apparently set into the front of someone's house.

Can you spot the third fuel pump in front of the Hairdresser's shop?

Weobley is a large village in Herefordshire. Formerly a market town, it is today one of the county's black and white villages.

The name possibly derives from 'Wibba's Ley', a ley being a woodland glade and Wibba being a local Saxon landowner. In the Domesday Book the village name was transcribed as *Wibelai*. It is still pronounced as "Web-ley" (the spelling being similar to nearby Leominster which also does not pronounce the letter 'o' in its name).

The village has an historic church, the Church of St Peter and St Paul, with a Norman south doorway, a 13th-century chancel and 14th-century tower and a spire that is the second-tallest in the county.

In the village is 'the Throne', a large 400-year-old building - King Charles I spent the night here on 5 September 1645, after the Battle of Naseby during the English Civil War.



An extract from the Weobley village website www.weobley.org

There are some 50 footpaths in the Weobley Parish, most of them gated for easy access. A guide, containing 30 walks, can be found in the village bookshop, newsagency and post office.

Every Saturday morning a village walk is provided by the footpath wardens. We start from Wildgoose Chase, opposite the Gables Guesthouse at 8 a.m. and walk for between an hour and a half to two hours. All are welcome (and their dogs). Please wear stout waterproof boots.





stride
and
stroll



Out and About



EVERGREEN NOVEMBER

Deciduous trees will have lost or nearly lost their leaves in November. Those with a Beech hedge will know, that although the Beech is deciduous, it keeps its old Brown leaves, throughout most of the winter. This retention of leaves which are normally shed, is called **marcescence**. Beech, Hornbeam and some Oaks can be **marcescent**.

Evergreen trees stay green throughout the winter, only losing and replacing some of their leaves at any one time. The majority of conifer trees are evergreen, having no flowers but cones, to contain their seeds.

EVERGREEN CONIFERS

Scot's Pine----long, thin needle like leaves, with woody cones, opening to release the wind dispersed seeds.

Stone Pine----native to the Mediterranean region, its woody cones contain edible seeds[pine nuts], which are dispersed by birds and collected by people.

Chilean Pine [Monkey Puzzle Tree]----thick, triangular scale-like leaves, spirally arranged. The cones disintegrate on the tree to release the wind dispersed seeds.



FOCUS ON THE CHILEAN PINE.

Native to Chile and Argentina, it was the Victorians who called the tree, Monkey Puzzle, because they thought monkeys would have a problem climbing the tree. Chilean Pines have existed for around 200 million years and may have provided food, for some plant eating dinosaurs.

Jet is fossilized wood; Whitby Jet comes from the fossilized wood of Chilean Pine trees, growing millions of years ago, when the land mass which would become Britain, was located where Spain/Portugal are today.

Amber is fossilized tree resin, from ancient conifer trees, particularly Pine trees. The sticky resin is produced to seal an injury and hardens when exposed to the air. Some Amber may contain insects/small invertebrates, which became trapped in the sticky resin and then entombed as it hardened.

Common [English] Yew----the single seed is surrounded by a red, soft cone [aril]. The aril attracts birds, which disperse the seeds. All parts of the Yew are poisonous except the aril; Taxane compounds make the yew poisonous.

A Taxane first extracted from the bark of the Pacific Yew [Western Yew], which is native to the Pacific coast of North America, has proved effective in the treatment of ovarian cancer. A Taxane first extracted from the leaves of the Common Yew, has proved effective in the treatment of breast cancer.



Common Juniper----belonging to the Cypress Conifer family, the Juniper, with the Yew and Scot's Pine, are considered to be the only native conifers of Britain; all other conifers having been introduced at some time.

Growing as a small tree/shrub, the mature berry-like cones, are blue/purple and usually contain three seeds. Birds feed on the mature cones and disperse the seeds; the green, immature cones are used to flavour gin.



Besides the conifers, there are other evergreen trees/shrubs growing in the British countryside.



stride
and
stroll



Out and About (continued)



Holm Oak [Holly Oak]----native to the Mediterranean region, this evergreen Oak, has spiny, lower leaves, like the Holly, probably to deter browsing animals.

Leaves higher up the tree and out of reach of most animals, have no spines.



European Holly----the Holly has separate male and female trees [dioecious], with the red fruits appearing only on the female trees. The red fruits should not be eaten by people, as too many will cause sickness/diarrhoea.

The red fruits are a valuable winter food for many birds, with the Mistle Thrush, known to guard a favourite Holly tree, so that its fruits are not taken by any other bird.



Cherry Laurel----native to the Black Sea region, it has become naturalised in many woodlands, being able to tolerate drought and shade. It is unrelated to the Bay Laurel [Sweet Laurel], which is used in cooking and the two should not be confused, as all parts of the Cherry Laurel are poisonous.

Leaves of the Cherry Laurel when crushed, smell of almonds, due to the presence of Amygdalin, which when activated will release Hydrogen Cyanide. Insects for study, would often be killed, by placing them in a sealed jar, containing crushed Cherry Laurel leaves.

Green leaves make sugars for the plant [Photosynthesis] and lose water [Transpiration]. Evergreen trees/shrubs, must have leaves adapted to survive the conditions of winter.

Waxy covering---makes the leaf shiny; allows water to roll off the leaf; prevents too much water loss.

Needle-like leaves---the rolled needles reduce the surface area to lose water.

Sunken leaf pores----buried pores reduce water loss.

EVERGREEN COLLECTIONS

Wyre Forest Visitor Centre

Callow Hill, next to the A456, 3 miles west of Bewdley.
DY14 9XQ

Queenswood Country Park and Arboretum

Dinmore Hill
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 0PY

Kingswood Forest Park

Blakeshall Lane
DY11 5XT

Many churchyards contain ancient Yew trees.

Visit St. Bartholomew's Church at Much Marcle, to see a hollow Yew tree, thought to be around 1500 years old.

Grid Ref: SO657327

Nearest Postcode: HR8 2NF



Notice Board

October Attendances

Saturday walk date	Thursday numbers		October 2016					Saturday Totals	Weekly Totals
			A	AB	B	C	D		
01/10/16		Saturday	11	4	12	9	8	44	44
08/10/16		Saturday	11	17	13	14	14	69	69
15/10/16		Saturday	15	13	8	14		50	50
22/10/16		Saturday	17	21	6	22	17	83	83
29/10/16			7	19	15	23	20	84	84
Totals	0		61	74	54	82	59	330	330
Average miles per person	1.5		6.0	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.0	Saturday Mileage	1484.0
Mileage per Group	0.0		366.0	370.0	243.0	328.0	177.0	Month's total Mileage	1484.0



A **cruck** or **crook frame** is a curved timber, one of a pair, which supports the roof of a building, used particularly in England.

This type of timber framing consists of long, generally naturally curved, timber members that lean inwards and form the ridge of the roof.

The cottage is described as a “Charming grade II listed building, understood to date back to the 14th century.”

From this distance three of the windows bear a remarkable resemblance to 21st century UPVC double glazed units.

I wonder if anyone else has noticed?