



In this issue:

- **Ticks in the great outdoors.**
Not the most pleasant subject but something we all need to be aware of.
- **Twin Town Walkers Visit.**
3 Ladies from our twin town of Husum on a short visit which included a walk with us. Thanks to Sue Humphries and Hilary Boyle for this article content.
- **Notice Board.**
We have a new, and much improved, walk venue locator on our website. If you are not sure where one of our walk venues is, take a look at this.



Summer is here and we can all enjoy the countryside more when the sun is shining but we do need to be aware of and take precautions against the possibility of being bitten by a Tick.

Ticks are cousins to spiders and the Tick that generally bites humans can be as small as a poppy seed or full stop on this page.

Unfortunately a **small proportion** of UK Ticks may be infected with Lyme disease which can be very unpleasant to humans.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted by tick bites. The ticks themselves have to be infected with the bacteria in order to pass it on and most bites do not result in the condition; but the UK sees around 3,000 case a year and the number is on the rise.

The UK Health Protection Agency runs the 'Tick surveillance and research project' from its Porton Down laboratory and currently has a collection of around 10,000 specimens collected from all over the UK. They encourage members of the public to send in any ticks they find on themselves or their pets after they have been out in the countryside. This information is helping to build up a better picture of the current distribution of ticks and where they may be expanding their range.

To reduce the risk of being bitten:

- Cover your skin while walking outdoors and tuck your trousers into your socks.
- Use insect repellent on your clothes and skin – products containing DEET are best.
- Stick to paths whenever possible.
- Wear light-coloured clothing so ticks are easier to spot and brush off.

If you are unlucky and you are bitten:

- Use fine-tipped tweezers or a tick-removal tool – you can buy these from some pharmacies, vets and pet shops.
- Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible.
- Slowly pull upwards, taking care not to squeeze or crush the tick. Dispose of it when you've removed it.
- Clean the bite with antiseptic or soap and water.

If you are doubly unlucky and do not have a readily available suitable tool DO NOT attempt to remove the tick with your fingers.

Check you clothing for a loose thread and tie a single loop of thread around the tick's mouthparts, as close to the skin as possible, then pull upwards and outwards without twisting. After tick removal, cleanse the bite site with antiseptic, or soap and water, at the first opportunity.



Picture courtesy of Lime Disease Action
www.limediseaseaction.org.uk





Twin Town Walkers Visit



On the evening of Sunday 22nd of April, three Ladies from our German twin town of Husum arrived for a 4 day visit. They were met at the airport by Sue Humphries and Hilary Boyle and whisked away for dinner in Bewdley at the home of Chris and John Holloway.

Sue and Alan Humphries hosted Gisela Pahlke at their home in Ribbesford.

Sue and Richard Jennings hosted Marina Wohler.

Kathy Brown hosted Hanna Schiele.

They were to have a very full itinerary for their short visit and the plan was for them to also spend some time walking in the Worcestershire countryside.

At 10 am on Monday they met at the Guildhall in Bewdley for a 2 hour historical guided walk around Bewdley. The walk was led by members of the Civic Society.

Gisela checked out the Stocks and decided that, should the need arise, she would have no problem escaping from them.

The tour was followed by lunch at the Shambles Café in Bewdley museum.



Afternoon Tea was taken at Kidderminster Town Hall with the Mayor Nicky Gale.

Tea was followed by a tour of the town hall building



On the second evening of the visit a Skittles match took place between members of Stride & Stroll, members of the town twinning committee and of course our visitors. It was great fun and a good icebreaker.



The Squirrel Inn Alveley was our venue for the Twin Towns Skittles match.





Twin Town Walkers Visit



On Tuesday the morning walk was from Eymore Wood Trimpley and was led by Kathy Brown. The plan was that this beautiful walk to Arley and around Trimpley reservoir would give our visitors a good example of the Worcestershire countryside. Sadly the gods were against us and it poured all morning!

After a light lunch in the garage of the Jennings home in Trimpley, Sue and Richard led the afternoon walk; the Habberley Circular. Again an exceptionally good walk with views across the county. But not on that day! We hoped that our visitors had good imaginations to see through the mist!

The afternoon walk enabled us to work up an appetite for the planned Fish and Chip supper to be held at the home of Sue and Alan Humphries.

On Wednesday morning our visitors joined us for the A group Chaddesley Corbett pre walk.

The Bluebells were a disappointment, probably too cold and wet, but the weather was kind to us until the last half hour or so when it began to rain steadily. We were forced to zip up the waterproofs and prepare to be 'Boiled in the bag' which we duly were!

(it seems that even the more expensive waterproof clothing does not breathe in some conditions despite the manufacturers claims.)

One of the Ladies was asked what the winter weather had been like in Husum. She replied "Nass! Nass! Nass!" (Wet! Wet! Wet!). No surprise really, it seems most of Europe has suffered over the last 3 or 4 months.



Chaddesley woods are managed by the Worcestershire wildlife trust. The area is a national nature reserve and is the second largest wooded area in Worcestershire. The largest is the Wyre Forest near Bewdley.

The history of the woods can be traced back to the early 13th century, but there is other evidence pointing to the fact that this area has probably been forested since the last ice age, many thousands of years ago.

This picture shows the main entrance to the woods, being located off Woodcote Green Lane.

After lunch at Rowberry's Garden Centre restaurant Hilary Boyle took our visitors to Harvington Hall for a brief introduction to English history.

On the last evening a farewell meal was held at The Hop Pole Inn in Bewdley and the German guests invited walkers to visit them in Husum next year and said that they will organise the walks. More information to follow!

On Thursday morning there was time for a visit to the Carpet Museum at Stour Vale Mill and a short tour of Kidderminster escorted by Hilary Boyle.

At 2 pm Sue and Richard Jennings provided transport to Birmingham airport and our visitors returned home.





Notice Board

New and improved walk venue locator

In January 2017 we launched our new, and vastly improved, website and it appears to have been very well received.

The website is managed by our own Graham Little in collaboration with the local company Severn Side Solutions in Bewdley who have been responsible for the web site design, hosting and management.

As users will know, the website has many useful functions and one of the key functions is to clearly identify the location of meeting points for our walks, some of which can be relatively hard to find.

When we launched the website we were limited to using postcodes and Google maps to provide this information and, as a result, there were many times when the 'pointer' on the map provided did not accurately locate the meeting point. We decided that an improvement was necessary and in January this year we contacted Severn Side Solutions with a proposal to use Ordnance Survey maps which would allow us to show meeting points with accuracy to within a few metres. By mid February the new system was installed and tested.

We publish our walk timetable twice a year, January to June and July to December, but we continually monitor the availability of our walk meeting points and occasionally we find it necessary to remove a venue and add a new one. Using this function on our website allows us to relocate a meeting point at any time during the year.

For anyone who has not used the system, the pictures below will hopefully clarify the operation.

Question: Where are AB group meeting this weekend?

Open website and select 'List of walks'



List shows that group A, AB and B are meeting at Hawkbatch on 16th June.

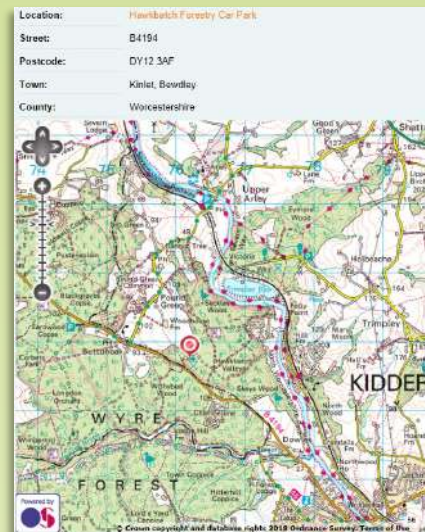
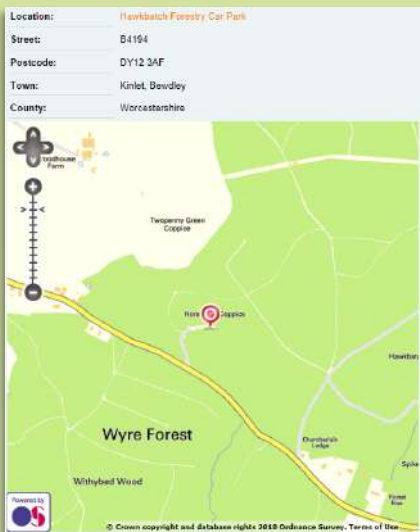
Click on the orange text 'Hawkbatch' and a new page opens describing the venue location.



Scroll down page to see location map at high resolution with pointer

Zoom out to see more general location

Zoom out further to identify road routes



Note: The zoom feature on a tablet or phone is provided as a 'Pinch'.

On a PC, locate pointer over map and us the 'Scroll' wheel on your mouse.

There are 11 zoom levels and this shows the maximum 'Zoom In'



This shows the maximum 'Zoom Out'

