



**In this issue:**

- **Shrawley Woods - Bluebells & Garlic**  
Pictures from our walkers who took to the woods to enjoy the beauty of the English Springtime.
- **Out and About.**  
Jan Meacham describes hedgerows and plants to look out for.
- **Notice Board.**  
April attendance figures.

Alan Humphries is taking part in Velo Birmingham on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017. He will be riding a 100 mile circular route from Birmingham to raise funds for **Alzheimer's Society**.

Alan, who will be 67 in August, has two artificial knees and a reconstructed shoulder.

Our recent raffle, which was drawn at the quiz night on 25<sup>th</sup> April, raised a total of **£441** and the money will be presented to Alan at the all groups Rock walk on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Many Stride and Strollers have also committed to sponsor Alan in his endeavour.

***There is still plenty of time for more sponsors!***



## Shrawley Woods - Bluebells & Garlic

No need for words to describe what the A group pre walkers enjoyed on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Sunshine through the trees coupled with acres of Bluebells and Wild Garlic; Spring at its best.







**stride  
stroll**  
pure

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## **Shrawley Woods - Bluebells & Garlic**

Not to be outdone, the C and D group walkers also provided pictures of their Bluebell walks on the 6th of May



Not a Shrawley picture but apparently Walter from the AB group needs a map.





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## Out and About

# KNOW YOUR HEDGEROWS

The hedgerows have been a profusion of white, Blackthorn blossom, an indication of a promising harvest of Sloes in the autumn.



From late April into May, the hedgerows and broad-leaf woodlands, display white blossom from other species of plant. There are two species of Hawthorn, which when in flower, transform a hedgerow into a line of frothy white.

### COMMON HAWTHORN [QUICKTHORN]

A thorny tree/shrub with deeply lobed leaves. Its sweetly-scented flowers, known as May Blossom. The fruits are haws containing one seed; a valuable food source for birds.



### MIDLAND HAWTHORN

A less thorny tree/shrub with shallowly-lobed leaves. Common in the Midlands and further north. Its flowers have an unpleasant smell. The fruits are haws containing two seeds. Some cultivars of the Midland Hawthorn display red/pink flowers; look for red hawthorns when you are out and about.

**Midland Hawthorn was probably more common in medieval times and became associated with illness and death, if brought inside the house. The unpleasant smell of the flowers is due to Trimethylamine, which is also responsible for the smell associated with decaying animal/plant tissues.**



### WILD CHERRY [GEAN]

A broad-leaf tree growing in woodland and considered to be the original wild stock of the cultivated cherry trees. The leaf stalks have 2-5 red glands, which are extra floral nectaries. Ants and wasps visit these glands for the sugary nectar and will defend their source of nectar. The cherry tree gains some protection from the ants/wasps, as they will predate caterpillars and other plant eating insects. White blossom in clusters [umbels], each flower on a single stalk; a source of nectar for insects. Later the flowers develop into bitter tasting fruits, which are eaten by birds; the Latin name **Prunus avium**, reflects the association of the cherry fruits with birds.





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## Out and About (continued)

### BIRD CHERRY [MAYDAY TREE]

A broad-leaf tree preferring wet woodland and the banks of streams/ivers. Grows further north than the Wild Cherry.

White blossom in semi-erect spikes [racemes], a valuable source of nectar for insects.

Later the flowers develop into bitter tasting fruits, which are eaten by birds.

**Our largest finch, the Hawfinch, has a powerful bill and is able to exert a force of around 588Newtons, equivalent to a mass of 60kg; this is enough to crack open cherry stones, to feed on the enclosed seed.**



### WILD PEAR

A broad-leaf tree growing singly in open woodland, old gardens and waste ground.

Wild Pear trees in England, are thought to be descendants of cultivated stock.

White blossom in clusters, a source of nectar for insects.

Later the flowers develop into pear-like green/yellow fruits, which are very astringent.



### WILD CRAB APPLE

A broad-leaf tree growing singly in hedgerows and thickets. The gnarled and twisted twigs give the tree a 'crabbed' appearance, which may have given rise to its name.

Considered to be the ancestor of the orchard apple.

White blossom is tinted/streaked with pink; a source of nectar for insects.

Later the flowers develop into hard, apple-like fruits which are bitter tasting.

The fruits are used to make preserves.



### ROWAN [MOUNTAIN ASH]

A broad-leaf tree often growing singly on hillsides/rock faces at high altitude, as well as in woodland.

White blossom in dense clusters.

Later the flowers develop into Red 'berry' like fruits which are sought after by birds.

Birds disperse the Rowan seeds in their droppings and are the reason why some Rowan trees can be found growing in odd places.

Rowan trees were regarded as protectors against evil and witchcraft. They were planted in some churchyards and crofting settlements.







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& stroll**

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## Notice Board

# April Attendances

Saturday walk date	Thursday numbers		April 2017					Saturday Totals	Weekly Totals
			A	AB	B	C	D		
01/04/17		Saturday	16	18	20	16	20	90	90
08/04/17	51	Saturday	17	25	10	19	22	93	144
15/04/17	37	Saturday	9	25	23	17	25	99	136
22/04/17	52	Saturday	23	27	17	22	19	108	160
29/04/17	33	Saturday	20	0	20	24	19	83	116
<b>Totals</b>	<b>173</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>646</b>
Average miles per person	0.5		7.0	4.5	4.5	4.0	3.0	Saturday Mileage	2134.5
Mileage per Group	<b>86.5</b>		<b>595.0</b>	<b>427.5</b>	<b>405.0</b>	<b>392.0</b>	<b>315.0</b>	Month's total Mileage	2221.0