



### My Walk Along the Wall

On my way to my local café for coffee and cake (well, we should all have a treat now and again) I walk besides a tall red brick wall. To take my mind off the busy traffic dashing past I look to see what plants I can see growing in the wall. DWA/ME

Near the top is a buddleia. We know the plant as butterfly bush and many of us have it in our gardens and are able to enjoy the butterflies it attracts. Buddleia was brought over from the west of China in 1890. The name, which was given by Carl Linnaeus, posthumously honoured the botanist and rector Reverend Adam Budd.

Lower down in the wall are some dandelions, their bright yellow flowers lighting up the bricks. As a child I was told not to pick these flowers because they made you wet the bed. One of the old names is Tiddle bed and, to seal the 'wetting the bed' theory, 100 years ago monks used dandelion as a diuretic.

The next plant to catch my eye is a small dark green fern tucked into the space between the bricks. Its name is wall rue. The leaves are not fern-like but more rounded, a little like clover. Wall rue was once believed to have magical properties and was used in spells and charms.

A little further on again, growing out of the cracks between the bricks is a tiny fern. Not being an expert on ferns, I turn to the help of my trusty flower book and find that it is called maidenhair spleenwort. It is certainly very beautiful.

Last on my list are one or two ivy-leaved toadflax. This pretty lilac and yellow flower arrived here in the 17<sup>th</sup> century from southern Europe. They may have come in packaging that was wrapped around marble statues imported from Italy to Oxford. Ivy-leaved toadflax has an intriguing mechanism that enables it to colonise walls and rocks. When in bloom the flower stalks bend towards the light but when flowering is finished the seed heads bend the other way so that the seeds are more likely to shed into the cracks and mortar joints. All very clever!

I hope these plants will go on adorning this wall so that I can always enjoy their company on my way to coffee and cake.

Rosemary Hatton

*Thank you Rosemary for this really interesting article.*

*Look out for those walls!*

## Autumn Indoor Meetings

Everyone is welcome to all meetings  
Holy Innocents Community Hall at 7.30 p.m. Admission £3.00

Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup>  
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Highgate Common. Heathland and Woodland

*Come and learn about this lovely commo. It's only just over the border in Staffordshire and provides a varied habitat that is interesting to visit.*

Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Matthew Terry

Bats and their conservation

*This will be an interesting talk by Matthew who is chair at Worcestershire Bat Group. An opportunity to learn more about these creatures of the night.*

Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup>

John Medlock

Birds and how they see compared to humans

*Can birds see further, is their vision sharper and more colourful? Come and find out!*



Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>

A.G.M and Christmas social

*A short A.G.M followed by our Christmas social. An enjoyable way to start the festivities!*

## Walks to enjoy this autumn

All start 10.a.m. Donations to Trust Funds

Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>

Dropping Well Farm

Led by Joe Gillard

*This is a walk of approximately 2.5 miles and Joe will give us insights into the work and developments at Dropping Well. He'll discuss future plans with emphasis on habitat creation work.*

**Meet:** Blackstone Picnic Site car park  
Grid ref: 796674 Nearest postcode: DY12 1PU

Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>

A walk from Broadwaters

Led by Glyn Walters

*A pleasant walk starting at the lovely landmark of Broadwaters Park and extending along the canal and around Wolverly. This walk is approx. 3.8 miles with no stiles.*

**Meet:** Broadwaters car park just off the A449  
Grid ref: 840779 Postcode: DY10 2UH

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November

A delightful walk around Chaddesley Corbett

Led by Mervyn Needham

*This is a walk of around 3 miles through the lovely countryside around Chaddesley Corbett with the opportunity to enjoy the autumn colours and to benefit from Mervyn's local knowledge. May be muddy.*

**Meet:** The lane next to Chaddesley Corbett village hall, just off the A448  
Grid ref: 888737 Postcode: DY10 4QA

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Wending our way around Wilden Top

Led by Richard Cory

*This is a circular walk of approximately 3.75 miles along local lanes and the disused Leapgate railway line. Richard has a wealth of local knowledge about the history and uses of this area. No stiles.*

**Meet:** St Audreys, Wilden Top Road, Stourport. Parking along drive to house  
Grid ref: 827722 Postcode: DY13 9JF

For further information about the group  
please contact Joan Kearton-Jones  
joan.kj@sky.com

Would you like to suggest a walk or lead one  
that is special to you? If so please contact  
Glyn Walters 01562 637556

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