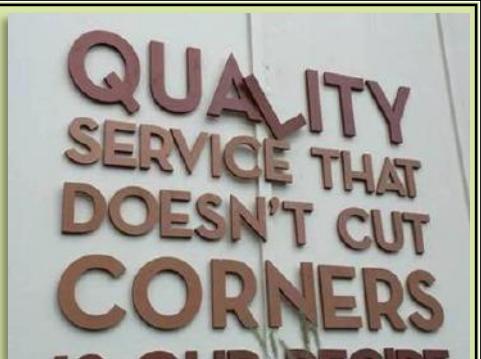



In this issue:

- Belly Fusion Event.**
On Friday 10th of February a rather unusual event took place in Bewdley. Thanks to Sue Humphries and all the photographers who recorded the happenings of the evening .
- Out and About.**
What do you know about our native Owls? Jan Meacham has been looking at these amazing birds and passes on her findings to us.
- Notice Board.**
January attendance figures. Events happening soon.


Irony in pictures

Thanks (again) to Alan Moore for spotting these entertaining pictures and passing them on.



Belly Fusion Event.



On Friday 10th February those who came along to St Georges Hall in Bewdley enjoyed an evening of **Song & Dance** and helped to raise funds for **Stride and Stroll**.

The evening started with the **Belly Fusion Dance Collective**.

They are an improvised tribal belly dance troupe made up of 7 like minded ladies who came together 10 years ago.

Many of the troupe came from a cabaret belly dance background; a style many of us recognised from holidays in Turkey and Egypt. Traditional tribal belly dancing is danced totally improvised, a style the troupe trained at and still train at.

Nowadays they have developed a more quirky theatrical and fun style of belly dancing which includes many choreographed dances. This has led Belly Fusion to be invited to dance at a variety of events, including folk festivals, weddings, country fayres and to Europe's largest steam punk weekend in Lincoln.

After half an hours dancing the troupe took a rest and we where then entertained by **Elisha Green**. A very talented young lady who played the guitar and sang for us. Elisha won the **Wyre Forest Young Musician of the year** in 2016 in the solo singer category.



Elisha is only 17 and we enjoyed her medleys of some covers and songs she has written herself. A very talented and warm youngster who we believe will go far!

After an interval, and of course a raffle (Thank you to all those of you who donated prizes), the evening continued with Belly Fusion doing a second set and allowing us to find out more about the amazing costumes which they make themselves!

Finally members of the audience joined the dancers and received instruction in belly dancing which had everyone in the hall laughing. It was a great evening and we must thank all the volunteers who made it possible.





Out and About



KNOW YOUR OWLS

Owls are birds of prey, which inhabit the temperate and tropical regions of the world. There are around 216 species of owl, divided into two families:

Typical [True] Owls - around 198 species—round facial disc [face];
 Barn Owls - around 18 species---heart-shaped facial disc.

There are 5 main species of owl in the UK and from late February into March, they become more vocal as they prepare to breed.

Some of our owls are active during daylight and the keen observer, may locate a perching owl.

All owls share some common features:

Birds of prey;
Forward facing eyes with binocular vision;
Acute hearing—their ears are covered with feathers, either side of the facial disc;
Noiseless flight;
Strong hooked bill;
Powerful talons.



TAWNY [BROWN] OWL

Rounded Brown face with dark eyes.

Range of habitats—woodlands, churchyards, farmland, parkland.

Very territorial, listen for their courtship calls from late February. 'Twit-twooo' call is a duet between male and female; the male calls 'too woo' and the female calls 'toowit'; females also call 'keewick'.

Mostly nocturnal, roosting in trees during the day; look out for birds, mobbing a roosting Tawny Owl.

Country names include, 'Billy Hooter' and 'Hill Hooter'; the Romans associated the hoot of an owl, with an impending disaster or death.

BARN [SCREECH] OWL

Heart-shaped facial disc with dark eyes.

Appears ghostly white in flight.

Range of habitats---woodland edge, wetlands, farmland.

Does not hoot, has a range of screeching calls/hisses.

Mostly nocturnal; look out for Barn Owls perched on fence posts or quartering the ground in early spring/summer during the day.

Hearing the screech of a Barn Owl was associated with an imminent storm.





Out and About (continued)



LITTLE OWL

Rounded Brown face with yellow, staring eyes with a dark centre.

Range of habitats---woodland edge, parkland, farmland.

Call is a 'kiew kiew'.

Introduced into the UK from mainland Europe, Between 1874-90 and is now our most commonly seen owl.

Nocturnal but equally active during the day; look out for its dumpy body, often bobbing up and down, perched on a telegraph pole/fence post.

Its Latin name **Athene noctua**, refers to Athene [Athena] the Ancient Greek goddess of wisdom. This owl was the sacred symbol of Athene and led to the belief, of

'The Wise Old Owl'.

LONG-EARED OWL

Rounded Brown face, orange eyes with a dark centre.

Conspicuous ear tufts are for display and have no hearing function.

Associated with conifer plantations and scrub thickets.

One of our least vocal owls. From late February, listen for the long, 'hoo hoo hoo' call, similar to blowing over the top of a glass bottle.

There are Long-Eared Owls in the Wyre Forest. Mainly nocturnal, look out for them in daylight.

During breeding they use the old nest of a crow or pigeon; when perched close to a tree trunk, they look long and thin, with raised ear tufts.

Wearing an amulet made from the ear tufts of this owl, was thought to protect against intoxication and nightmares.



SHORT-EARED OWL

Rounded Brown face, yellow staring eyes with a dark centre; short ear tufts.

Prefers open country—grasslands, moorland, coastal marshes and dunes. They nest on the ground in low vegetation.

Vocal during the breeding season which starts from late February/March. Listen for the 'toot toot toot' call of the male, delivered with wing clapping/swooping over the nest site, in an aerial courtship display. The females call is a long, drawn out, scratchy 'waowk waowk'.

Mostly active during daylight, either quartering the ground, perched on a post or on the ground. It is the longest winged of the main UK owls.

Its Latin name **Asio flammeus**, refers to Asio [owl family] and flammeus [colour of fire—blazing yellow eyes].



Notice Board

January Attendances

Saturday walk date	Thursday numbers		January 2017					Saturday Totals	Weekly Totals
			A	AB	B	C	D		
07/01/17	35	Saturday	22	23	22	20	21	108	143
14/01/17	43	Saturday	21	20	10	14	6	71	114
21/01/17	23	Saturday	20	32	16	25	20	113	136
28/01/17	32	Saturday	15	20	12	28	13	88	120
								0	0
Totals	133		78	95	60	87	60	380	513
Average miles per person	0.5		6.5	4.5	4.5	4.0	3.0	Saturday Mileage	1732.5
Mileage per Group	66.5		507.0	427.5	270.0	348.0	180.0	Month's total Mileage	1799.0

Happening soon!

Quiz Night with Fish (or Chicken) and Chip Supper

Tuesday, 25 April 2017 from 19:00 – 22:30
 St. George's Hall, Bewdley
 Licensed Bar
 See your walk leader for ticket details



Rock - Pound the Bounds - Sunday 30th April

A variety of walks around the Parish boundary of Rock in the beautiful Worcestershire countryside to support Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.



Choose a route to suit your day.

- Marathon – 26 miles taking in the Wyre Forest.
- 18 miles taking in the Wyre Forest.
- Half Marathon (13 miles) or 9 miles. ?One third Marathon?
- Independent and guided 6 miles.
- Treasure Trail 3 miles.

For more details visit the website poundthebounds.com

Rock Pound The Bounds was first held in 2000 and more walkers join in every year.

These walks will take you through some fabulous terrain including woodland, pasture, riverside and meadow and at this time of year the countryside is at its most beautiful with bluebells and other spring flowers at their best.