

SOCIAL DISTANCING ON THE STRAWBERRY LINE

We all need to get some fresh air and exercise to keep us fit and sane whilst ‘social distancing’. If you live close enough, The Strawberry Line is a good place to walk or cycle and keep away from other people.

Thankfully, unlike the foot and mouth virus several years ago when the line was closed, there have not been any restrictions other than maintaining a safe distance from each other. Please respect the advice we have been given so we can continue to enjoy this wonderful facility.

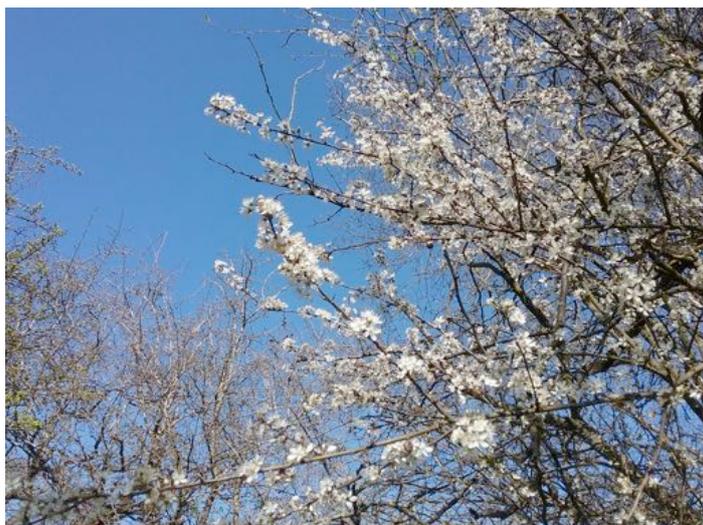
On Sunday morning the sun shone, it was warm and despite a very wet winter the hedgerows and verges are coming back to life. The birds were enjoying a burst of insects, there were so many midges you needed to keep your eyes and mouth shut.

You might enjoy seeing some of the first signs of spring.



Pussy Willow

One of the first signs of spring, the ‘Goat Willow’ adds a lovely splash of colour.



Blackthorn (Sloe)

The dainty clusters of white flowers were proving to be very popular with bees. The abundance of so much blossom will hopefully give a bumper crop of Sloes in the autumn.

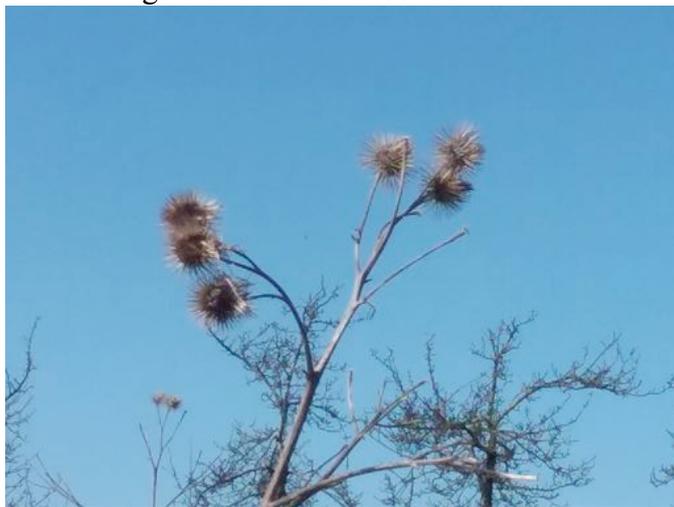


Lesser Celandine enjoy showing off their dainty flowers before being overtaken by Nettles and Dock



Marsh Marigold growing at the side of the Rhynes

The Rhynes and ditches are perfect for Marsh Marigolds to grow along side the Yellow flags that will flower June.



Sticky Buds – Burdock

Its always good to see some of last years plants although the seeds will have disappeared may months ago. Burdock will quickly grow and dominate the side of the track in the coming months.



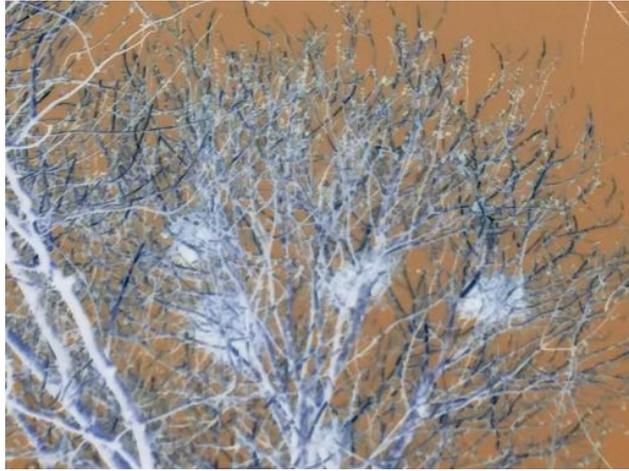
Ferns

Ferns enjoy the damp banks and edges of the ditches. Unfortunately, they are soon lost in the abundance of grass, nettles and ground elder. Enjoy the shiny leaves and delicate colours whilst you can see them.



Badger Sett

There are numerous Badger Setts along the Strawberry Line. This looks like a new Set under Thatcher Ciders Orchard fence. Not a bad place to set up home.



Rookery

The Rooks are already building their elaborate nests from sticks high in the trees and will be laying eggs in a week or so.

Enjoy, keep fit and take care

Michael Greaves
22nd March 2020