

OUT AND ABOUT HERE AND THERE

...with Rosemary Staples

Now then, where were we before 'arthritis' so rudely interrupted us. I bet we were on Levin Down as we usually are. Having had bits taken out of my thumb I have been a trifle handicapped [laugh] but am now at the exercises stage of recovery. They gave me a pot of yellow putty to play



with at the hospital physio department [when I say “gave” I mean I had to pay 4 pounds for it, NHS being so hard up] it is rather like Playdoh (but without the almond smell). I also get to play with an elastic band - very therapeutic and very effective. Anyway, enough of that. Back to Levin Down, which is why we are here. Needless to say it is a bit damp and muddy up there at the moment. Most of the pretty leaves have gone with the wind and apart from some Spindle and Rosehips there is very little colour. It has been so wet that the Old Man’s Beard looks very bedraggled and dull. If we do get a cold spell the birds are going to be hungry, as there are not many berries left and remember I am writing this before Christmas. Still, we can't do a lot about it. Only feed the ones that come in the garden. The Red Kites have been sighted recently. We were a bit worried that there might not be enough food up there for them and the Buzzards as there are not a lot of rabbits after the mixi. epidemic, but all is well. We have also spotted a Merlin, also seen by John another dog walker. This is rather like a large swift in shape, so something new to look out for. We have to get our ramblings in early this month, so will wish you a Very Happy and Healthy New Year and hope to see some of you on Levin Down soon.