

## Shorter Walks Group

### Report by Sue Overton

We experienced extreme changes in weather – rain, hail, icy wind and a bit of sunshine – on our 4.5 mile walk from Whorlton to Barnard Castle on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Seven intrepid walkers survived a hairy 10 minute bus ride (no.70 from stand A in Galgate at 13.37 ) to Whorlton as the driver did a very good impersonation of Lewis Hamilton! Two more joined us as we walked through the village towards the bridge but turning a sharp right at the top of the hill to take the well designated path behind gardens and high above the river.

Mostly level walking on the path through fields with good views of the Meeting of the Waters. But, there are two places with steep descent and ascents before reaching the wooded area leading to Abbey Bridge. It was quite sheltered in the wood and not too muddy. The wildflowers were beautiful – bluebells, primrose, wood anemone, bugle, wild garlic, campion and avens.

We crossed the road at Abbey Bridge to enter the wood on our homeward stretch – rather muddy on this woodland path but we were soon back in fields and were rewarded with great views of the Abbey on the other side of the river.

The experts in our group identified many different birds as we walked from Egglestons Abbey past the sewage works towards the Demesnes – Goosander, sandpiper, pied wagtail, grey wagtail, mallard, dippers, swallows, heron and a kestrel.

Thank you to all the knowledgeable people in the group and apologies to Hilary for chopping you off the photo!



Continued

