

Wildflower Report for March 2019

Prepared by Rose Pude

We have not had any outdoor meetings in March as experience has shown that there will be very few flowers to find so early in the year.

Rose spotted Yellow Star of Bethlehem in Flatts Wood, Barnard Castle and emailed the members with information on how to find it. This is a rare plant found in woodlands and meadows with a basic soil from central England to central Scotland. It is probably widespread in Teesdale as we are fortunate to have suitable habitats relatively undisturbed by human activity. Last year Ruth Stables found a large clump growing in a meadow at Greta Bridge.

We are looking forward to our first flower-finding walk on 24th April when we will be looking for spring meadow and woodland flowers near Egglestone Abbey. Rose had a walk there late March and found plenty of early spring flowers including wood anemones and primroses. Bluebells were not out but should be by the time of our walk.

May meetings are:

Thu 9th May Bowlees Quarry and possibly by the river upstream if we split into two groups

Tue 14th May Cow Green for the spring gentians and bird's-eye primrose.

All the above meetings (including 24 April) start at 2:00 and will be followed by refreshments at a café. New members from complete beginners to experienced botanists are always welcome.