

## Wildflower Group

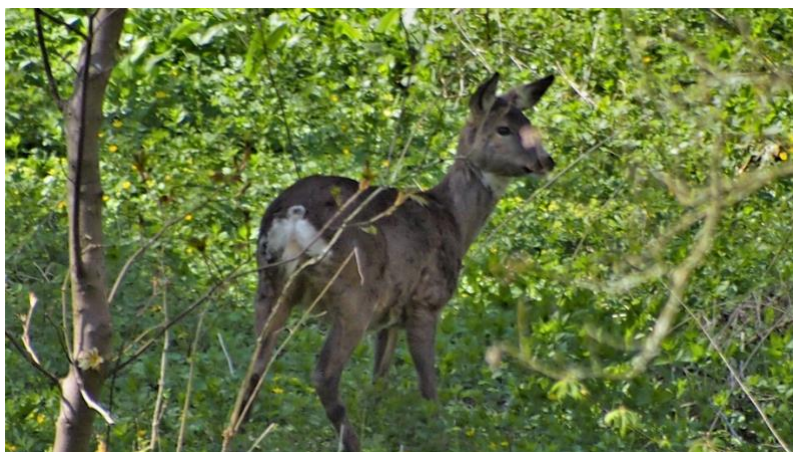
### April 2020, Report by Rose Pude

#### Flatts Wood Walk

Due to Coronavirus our walk in Flatts Wood, Barnard Castle on 24<sup>th</sup> April was cancelled. Instead some members did the walk by themselves or with a member of their household between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April. They sent me details of the flowers and other interesting things they had seen. The route started by the Silver Bridge, then to the picnic meadow by the Tees and finally along the footpath by Percy Beck to exit the woods by Woodside. I amalgamated the information into one list which was circulated to the members by email. Altogether an impressive 46 different flowers were seen. Two members saw Roe Deer in the wood. Celia Chapple saw peacock butterflies near the silver bridge.

Flatts Wood is well known locally for the magnificent display of bluebells. They were not quite at their peak when members did the walk but there were still plenty out. The wild garlic was well out in the sunnier places but only in bud on the shady banks. Wood anemones were still abundant, but the celandines were mainly over.

The walk will probably appear in the 2021 programme in late April or early May so members who could not visit Flatts Wood this year can admire the flowers next year.



Roe Deer in Flatts Wood.

Photo taken by Phil Johnson

April 2020



Bluebells in Flatts Wood.

Photo taken by Rose Pude

April 2020



Wood anemones in  
Flatts Wood.

Photo taken by  
Celia Chapple

April 2020



Wild Garlic in Flatts Wood.

Photo taken by Rose Pude

April 2020

### **Members findings**

Members sent in reports of what they had seen when out walking; during April - flowers, birds, butterflies etc. Some sent in photos as well. The information and some of the photos were put together in newsletters sent out in the middle and at the end of April. Several members said how interesting and enjoyable they found them so I will continue with a twice monthly newsletter until walks can safely resume.



Sweet violet

*(Viola odorata variety dumetorum)*

This beautiful flower is probably a garden escape.

Beck Road, Middleton.

Photo taken by Jenny Lee April 2020



Butterbur

Deepdale Nature Reserve, Startforth

Photo taken by Kathleen Howcroft

April 2020

### Activities for May

The planned May walks, at Cow Green and Bowlees, have been cancelled. As I do not want to encourage members to travel to either location, I have suggested they survey a stretch of disused railway line near where they live. I have also asked for reports of finds in other places that members can visit safely.

During May, some flowers come out that are widespread in Teesdale but rarely seen on our group walks. I have asked members to look out for bird cherry, globeflower, meadow saxifrage, sanicle and yellow flag. I will then pass the information on to all the members of the wildflower group so more people have a chance to see them.

All the above activities should mean there is plenty to put in the two May newsletters.