

## Forum report Wild Flower Group April 23

Our first walk of the month was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 23. The weather forecast for the afternoon was poor, the temperature was only 4 degrees and we had rain on and off. 7 hardy souls turned out for the walk. The walk started from the car park at Eggleston Abbey, we walked down Abbey Lane towards the meadow logging our finds as we walked. We noticed that the moschatel (town hall clocks) had moved their position again. On the opposite bank of the Tees we could see a mass of yellow gorse flowers. Into the meadow and by Thorsgill Beck we saw swathes of butterbur as well as violets, barren strawberry, and two types of golden saxifrage. As we crossed over Abbey Bridge we were able to see the stunning sight of the banks being covered in wood anemones. We saw lots of native bluebells in flower already. A full list of the plants in flower is in the separate list sent to the group. We compared our list of flowers with last years walk which was a similar date, there were less flowers this year with the wood avens in particular not yet in flower.



Our next walk took place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm meeting at the Parsons Lonnen gate at the top of the Demesnes. Again, the weather was rather cool for the time of year. 16 of us turned out for the walk. A full list of the 37 plants in flower has been sent round to the group. We were thrilled to see globe flowers in bloom by the beck. It was also great to see the cuckoo flowers thriving in the meadow. On a willow tree we saw lots of bees feeding on the pollen and looking around for suitable nest sites. Thanks to Celia for leading the walk.

In May the group will again have 2 walks:

Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Bowlees Visitor Centre

Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm Deepdale Woods

On 14th June the group will be venturing further out to Smardale Gill Nature Reserve near Kirkby Stephen.

Kate Keen