

Forum report Wild Flower Group May 23

Our first walk of the month was held on the Thursday 18th May 23. The weather forecast for the afternoon was fine and 15 of us met at Bowlees Visitor Centre for the walk. The walk started from the car park and we spotted a number of wild flowers before even leaving this area. We walked up to the quarry where we saw lots of crosswort, marsh valerian and even a butterwort just opening up. After this we crossed over Wynch Bridge and could see early purple orchids on the cliffs. We turned right after the bridge and saw more orchids and lots of globe flowers by the edge of the Tees. The last flower we saw was the rare alpine bistort, after this we returned to the visitor centre for refreshments.

Our next walk took place on Tuesday 23rd May meeting at the entrance to Deepdale Woods. 18 of us turned up on a lovely sunny afternoon. Among the interesting finds were some flowers of the avens group, we saw what were clearly water avens with their delicate peach drooping flowerheads, we saw similar plants with a lemon flower and then what was clearly wood avens with a yellow erect flowerhead. After consulting a plant guide, we found that the lemon flower is a hybrid of the other two. We were also pleased to find evidence of otters living in the area and feeding on crayfish. A full list of the plants in flower has been sent round to the group. Thanks to Anne Thompson for leading the walk.

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

In July we will be visiting Hayberries on the 7th.

Kate Keen

