

Wildflower Group – June 2025 – Report by Anne Thomson

Eleven of us visited Bowlees on a gloriously warm and sunny June day. We started by identifying flowers in the car park - a hybridised Avens, this is a mix of wood and water Avens! A few late flowering Bluebells hanging on, Cow Parsley, Dog Rose to name a few.

Next it was on to the Quarry where we found Twayblade, Common Spotted Orchid, Marsh Thistle, Thyme, 1 Foxglove the list goes on... We spotted Aquilegia and wondered how it got there as it's not a wildflower, deciding a bird must have dropped a seed!

On the way to the Visitor Centre (which we by-passed) we came across Wood Sanicle which is a member of the Carrot family and flowers from May to September.

Onwards across the meadows where the sheep were grazing happily on the wildflowers. We crossed Wynch Bridge to Low Force which was raging from the recent rain. We were all intrigued by the 'cobwebs' on a Bird Cherry tree, this is caused by the Ermine Moth and, apparently, only affects that particular tree: poor tree.

We were rewarded on this stretch of the River Tees by more Common Spotted and Broad-leaved Marsh Orchids, Melancholy Thistle, Northern Bedstraw, Tormentil, Golden Rod and Meadow Vetchling.

At this point time was running out and we were all in need of refreshment, so we adjourned to the Visitor Centre Cafe.

Coming up:

Wednesday, 9th July: Augill Nature Reserve & Pasture near Brough followed by ice cream or other refreshments at Brough Castle Ice Cream Parlour.

Friday, 25th July (an extra walk): Hayberries with refreshments afterwards at Cotherstone Old Chapel Cafe and Shop.

For more details of these walks please contact the Convenor