

U3a Wildlife Group Visits 2025

January 28th

We enjoyed an indoor meeting, hosted by Dorothy. Steve shared some photos from his foreign travels and Paul showed some photos of spectacular fungi. We then listened to a CD of birdsong, trying to hear the difference between various common birds with similar calls.

February 25th

We shared cars and drove through Grimston park to Kirby Wharfe. Under the old trees in Grimston park were drifts of snowdrops which looked so pretty after the winter. However, they were eclipsed by the bank of snowdrops at Rose Cottage. Once in Kirby Wharfe, we looked in the churchyard which was absolutely carpeted with the wonderful white flowers. Strolling around Kirby Wharfe we found primroses, aconites and catkins, a magnolia tree just coming into flower, elderberry bushes just starting to leaf and some coltsfoot in flower. We were serenaded by a robin, shouted at by rooks and enjoyed a blackbird while looking at some collared doves on a house roof.

March 25th

The Group met in the main car park and went to the river bridge, then walked downstream on the west side. It was a warm and sunny spring day following overnight rain. Our first stop was to look for butterbur – it was not easy to spot but once we had found some, we found lots more. We then walked to the bypass bridge finding celandine, purple violets, coltsfoot and the leaves of Lords-and-Ladies and ransoms (wild garlic). Hidden under a hedge was some purple dead nettle. The blossom was out on a cooper leaved plum tree and there were pussy willows out. The birds were quite shy but we saw some crows, a greenfinch, coal tits, a red kite, wren, robin and moorhen. Surprisingly, we saw our first comma butterfly with several huge bumble bees that were almost butterfly sized. Walking upstream from the bridge, we saw the resident heron but there was no sign of the cormorant that has been here for the past two years.