

# Wildlife Walk in Gedling Country Park 6th July

It seemed very unpromising weather when our small party gathered—cool, cloudy and wet. Turning behind the Visitor Centre, we faced a mass of flowering plants largely



Lamb's Ear



Great Mullion

ignored by the café users. Mark went on to identify many of them—Lamb's Ear, Great Mullion, Haresfoot Clover and swathes of Birdsfoot Trefoil.



Birdsfoot Trefoil



Hare's foot Clover

Moving over to the wildflower meadow, the narrow twisting path ran past cornflowers and the heads of creeping thistle. Where the earth had been disturbed, wild poppies were abundant, including a number of the tall opium variety. There was even an unknown orchid and a common fiddleneck. Insects might avoid the rain—but the plants love it.



Cornflower



Creeping thistle



Common poppy



Opium poppy



Plants love a wee drop



Moth avoids the rain



Orchid



Common Fiddleneck



Exhibition of wild carrot



Self-heal

The exhibition garden stood full of wild carrot, but self-heal, vipers bugloss and a huge slug drew our attention.



Vipers bugloss



Slug



Nursery web spider



The group with Mark

As the weather improved, more interesting subjects appeared. A young coot, still lacking the white beak of an adult retired to its nest.



Tiny frogs were barely 18mm long—and very active



Most of the tiny frogs, just out of their tadpole stage, tried frantically to avoid the camera, until one stared, defiant and resolute, at a lens barely 3mm from its nose.



Young coot

On the way down to the ponds we passed an oddly red Herb Robert,



probably due to an unusual element in the soil. On the water, the mallards displayed a renewed acceptance of human visitors. Fewer dogs in their world have made a vast difference. Ducks are breeding here, for the first time since 2012, and their ducklings are now reaching young adulthood in satisfying numbers.



Herb Robert



Five-spot Burnet moth

We finished by finding a 5-spot Burnet moth and an attractive musk mallow.



Musk mallow