

# Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds

## Wildlife Spotters Guide

### Spring Flowers

The Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds have an on-going plan to introduce a variety of native plants to the Sandbeds to attract butterflies, bees and other insects and to provide nesting sites and food for birds and mammals.

Here are some of the plants that flower in Spring for you to look out for.  
PLEASE NOTE: We have spent many hours planting many of these flowers.

These spring flowers are here for everyone to enjoy so Please DO NOT pick them, trample on them or dig them up.

Thank you for your consideration

On the following pages we have put together a worksheet with many of the Spring Flowers that can be found in the Barnfield Sandbeds. There is a photo and the name of the species to help with identification and a place for you to write in the date you saw them

The photographs on the following pages are by kind permission of the North East Wildlife web site or photographs taken by members of the Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds.

Copies of this work sheet and many others are available on our web site at [www.friendsofbarnfieldsandbeds.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbarnfieldsandbeds.co.uk)

The work sheets are presented in Adobe Reader PDF format which may be viewed from the website or printed out as required. If you see any Spring Flowers not included on the following pages we would like to know about it so we can add it to our list.

Please e-mail us on [info@friendsofbarnfieldsandbeds.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofbarnfieldsandbeds.co.uk)

	<p><b>Snowdrop</b></p> <p>The snowdrops are the earliest plants to flower, often in the middle of Winter, when the snow is on the ground. On sunny days the flowers will open and you can see the green spots on the inside petals which secrete nectar. This provides a feast for early bees which pollinate the flowers by leaving pollen as they go from plant to plant. An old name for snowdrop is "Fair maid of February".</p> <p>Date Seen :-</p>
	<p><b>Bluebell</b></p> <p>You know that Spring is really here when the woodland floor is carpeted with bluebells. The sight and scent is just heavenly. Most of the bluebells on this site should be English bluebells with their flowers all growing on one side of the stem. They are a darker blue than the Spanish variety which is normally grown in gardens. The bulbs of bluebells were once ground up to make glue. They contain starch which was used in Elizabethan times to stiffen their fancy ruffs.</p> <p>Date Seen :-</p>
	<p><b>Catkins (Alder)</b></p> <p>There are one or two alder trees in the Sandbeds and, these too have catkins. Again, it is the male catkin which is the long one - often reddish in colour. The female catkin is egg-shaped. In the Autumn they turn black and stay on the tree long after they have shed their winged seeds. These seeds are much loved by members of the tit family, redpolls and siskins.</p> <p>Date Seen :-</p>



### **Catkins (Hazel)**

The hazel is the first deciduous tree to wake up from its - Winter sleep. The male catkins start to grow in January and, by February, are swinging in the breeze. Their pollen is carried on the wind to the female flowers which are small, red and fluffy growing directly from the twigs. From this flower a hazel nut will grow in the Autumn.

Date Seen :-



### **Cowslip**

Although the leaves of these and Primroses look the same, you need to look at the flowers to tell them apart. Primroses have just one flower with 5 petals on each stem, whereas cowslips have several tube-shaped flowers nodding from the top of each stem. The name "cowslip" comes from Saxon times when people thought that the plants 'were born in cow pats.

Date Seen :-



### **Daffodil**

On either side of the path called The Rabbit Run you will find lots of wild daffodils. The many different types of garden varieties all originate from these wild ones. Another name for the wild daffodil is Lenten lily, although it is not a lily at all but it does flower throughout the season of Lent which is the six weeks before Easter.

Date Seen :-



### **Primroses**

When the first primroses start to bloom in March, you know that Spring has arrived. There are very few insects about when primroses bloom, so they are often not pollinated. They do produce sticky seeds to which ants are attracted, and they carry them off and thus disperse the seeds.

Date Seen :-



### **Wild Arum**

**This plant has several names including “lords and ladies” and “cuckoo pint”. In Spring, the strange, club-like flower appears inside a broad sheath called a “spathe”. The flower smells like decay to attract flies which get trapped in the spathe. In their efforts to escape they crawl around and pollinate the flower which will develop into orange berries which are very poisonous.**

**Date Seen :-**