

HONITON u3a

Nature Appreciation Group 

**Spring Gardens
& Nature Reserves**

Photographs taken by Group Members

APRIL – JUNE 2023

Honiton u3a – Nature Appreciation Group

April - June 2023

Early Spring 2023 turned out to be a rather cold and wet miserable affair. Our visit to Honiton Bottom Road was in pouring rain and on our return visit to **Kay's Pond & Garden in April** there was little improvement in that it was a dull, grey, and misty morning with no promise of the sun shining. In fact, the grey mist turned to rain just as we were leaving. It was as if Spring had been put on hold! BUT Nature Lovers can always find something to look at and enjoy, we know the sun does not shine all the time. The Blackthorn this year has been stunning, with large waves of white blossom adorning dark hedgerows and there are various types of catkins decorating the leafless branches of some of the trees plus there were vibrant yellow Marsh Marigolds to behold. Finally, there is nothing more enjoyable than a warming cup of hot tea or coffee with fellow group members kindly supplied by our hosts Kay & Kel

In contrast, in May, we enjoyed a very warm and sunny morning when we were invited to the beautiful **Spring Garden of fellow u3a members, Howard & Hilary Lyne**. On this occasion the hospitality came first, followed by a tour when Howard gave information about all the birds, flowers, and trees that visited or lived in his garden. We were taken up the side of a deep gully where one member of the group identified a nationally scarce fungus – *Verrucaria funckii*. Returning down the hillside we made our way to the Umborne Brook where Howard was preparing to do some 'river dipping' and to show us some of the small creatures that live in the gravel and under the stones of this kind of habitat.

June saw the group travelling to **Knapp Copse**. Again, a warm and sunny day and where we were joined by Wild East Devon Ranger – Jonathan Gardiner who gave us a very interesting, guided tour, explaining the work that was being carried out to maintain and improve this very diverse habitat. He also identified many of the wildflowers including the rather strangely named Corky Fruited Water Dropwort!

April 2023 – Kays' Pond & Garden



April 2023 – Spring Garden of Howard & Hilary Lyne



June 2023 – Knapp Copse

