



A cool but sunny afternoon. My route to the Wildlife Area took me past the picnic table and through the 'Communal Orchard'. The unmown areas of grassland were studded with flowering Dandelions, considered by many to be 'weeds', they certainly brightened up the grassland, and their seeds will go on to provide food for small birds. I noticed Lady's Smock flowering here and the Celandines I saw last month were only just beginning to 'go over',



Entering the Wildlife Area through the gate was a delight after such a long period of 'no access', and to see such a welcoming path through the varied vegetation on each side was a real treat. Sincere thanks are due to the volunteers who are putting in so much hard work to make visiting possible again.

Although butterflies are beginning to appear in the Village it was a little cool and I only saw one very small white butterfly - perhaps an early male Green-veined White or an Orange Tip. I followed the footpath downwards passing Cowslips and a fine patch of Wood Anemones before stopping on the bridge to admire a stand of Field Horsetail which had been carefully mown around.



Field Horsetail



Moving on, the path around the pond has been cleared leading past numerous plants of Marsh Marigold in large, yellow flowering clumps. The flagstones laid across the small drainage channel leading from the Reed Bed into the pond area are visible again. I remember regularly finding signs of otters (spraints) here many years ago, but no signs on this visit, but still worth checking.



Pendulous Sedge

This early in the year the pond is clear of Duckweed and it was good to see the surface albeit subject to gradual encroachment by reeds, rushes and other marginal vegetation, amongst which I noticed a flowering plant of 'Pendulous Sedge' something I don't remember seeing before.

I was surprised to hear so much bird song in the afternoon. With the aid of a 'phone 'App' I was able to list some twenty species.—see below.

Chiffchaff	Rook
Blackcap	Jackdaw
Willow Warbler	Crow
Blackbird	Goldfinch
Song Thrush	Dunnock
Wren	House Sparrow
Linnet	Great Tit
Greenfinch	Coal Tit
Blue Tit	Garden Warbler

Chaffinch
Moorhen
Woodpigeon

I look forward to adding to the list of birds, and to seeing more insects plants and other animals on future visits.