

‘The flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la..’

John Spatchet writes: Dorset and West Hants group members and friends enjoyed the beauty of God’s creation in glorious June sunshine on the chalk downland of Hambledon Hill in north Dorset. The views over Dorset were stunning but the afternoon’s focus was on the micro-environment of ground-cover flora and its native fauna. The flower walk was under the expert leadership of group member and botanical enthusiast Pam Marchant.

Walking up through the woodland we identified Bryony, Cleavers and Dog Rose.



Getting down to it

As soon as we reached the slopes of the hill, we encountered a host of fascinating species and spent time learning to distinguish such specimens as Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Chalk Milkwort, Wild Thyme, Horseshoe Vetch and Quaking Grass. Also ‘enjoying’ the flowers were many Six-Spot Burnet moths.



Six-Spot Burnet on Mouse-ear Hawkweed

Higher up on the ridge of the hill, we encountered Cowslips, Yellow Rattle, Common Spotted Orchids, Pyramidal Orchids and

Common Twayblades. Fluttering around were beautiful Chalkhill Blue butterflies, and on the ground the tiny ants which are the guardians of their caterpillars and chrysalises.



Common Spotted Orchid



Pyramidal Orchid



Common Twayblade

We are grateful to Pam for sharing her passion with us and for all the care she afforded us on this outing. We were also entertained by Andrew Walker’s occasional titbits on the origins of names and the herbal uses of our finds!



Hambledon Hill