



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Snowdrops at Tarrant Crawford Walk

Date: 11th February 2020
 Weather: Sunny 6 degrees with a cold wintery shower
 Walk Leaders: Lyn & Gerry Traves
 Attendees: 17

Tarrant Keyneston is a village and civil parish in Dorset, situated on the B3082 which runs between Wimborne and Blandford, in the Tarrant Valley and within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The River Tarrant is a 7.5 mile/12km long tributary of the River Stour. The nine Tarrant Valley villages/hamlets all bear the name of the river. Tarrant Keyneston is the 8th and largest village, it has a Parish Church dedicated to All Saints. Tarrant Crawford, is the final settlement which lies at the confluence of the rivers Tarrant and Stour. Here is the parish Church of St Mary the Virgin built in the 12th century, it has now been designated as a Grade I listed building and was vested into the Churches Conservation Trust on 1st July 1988. It was the lay church to Tarrant Abbey which is a Scheduled monument and was founded in 1186 by Ralph de Kahaines from Tarrant Keyneston as an independent monastery. Two famous people are associated with the abbey, Queen Joan the wife of Alexander II of Scotland and daughter of King John of England who is buried in the graveyard (supposedly in a golden coffin), and Bishop Richard Poore, builder of Salisbury Cathedral who was baptised in the church. In 1237 he was buried in the churchyard as the abbey's second founder as a Cistercian Monastery. Inside St Mary's church there are 13th and 14th century wall paintings, still in very good condition which cover most of the walls, the ones on the south wall are in the best condition. The churchyard has a beautiful show of Snowdrops at this time of year.

Our walk started at the True Lovers Knot pub situated at the crossroads in Tarrant Keyneston, crossing the B3082 and then along a footpath which runs along the back of the houses of the village where we saw a dead Tawny Owl, until we met All Saints Church. We crossed a bridge over the river and walked along the riverbank until we reached St Mary's church. We spent some time looking inside the church and admiring the Snowdrops before continuing, passing Tarrant Abbey Farm to a minor road. Turning right we walked along the road until we met a track which returned us to St Mary's church, we then retraced our steps along by the river, finally walking through the village of Tarrant Keyneston returning to the pub.

Birds	Flowering Plants
Robin	Hazel Catkins
Dunnock	Poplar Catkins
Kestrel	Daisy
Rook	Snowdrops
Wood Pigeon	Primrose
Blackbird	Lesser Celandine
Great Tit	Dog's Mercury
Buzzard	Red Dead-nettle
Pheasant	White Dead-nettle
Herring Gull	Comfrey
Jackdaw	Common Field Speedwell
Fieldfare	Stinking Iris fruits
Blue Tit	Dandelion
Mistle Thrush	Pignut
Wren	



Snowdrops in St Mary's Churchyard by Lyn Traves



Snowdrops at St Mary's Church, Tarrant Crawford by Lyn Traves