

**Parish Council Meeting Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
**Boyland Common Report**

The annual Wildflower walk led by Stella Taylor was scheduled for 3.00pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

The weather during the preceding week had been both cold and very wet, and the morning of the planned walk saw torrential thundery downpours. It was not surprising therefore that the turnout was very low, especially when compared with last years record 21 people.

However, Stella and the trusty few did meet as planned.

The Common was more waterlogged that we had ever experienced, and this, plus the very cold conditions, may have been responsible for the disappointingly very low number of Green-winged orchids sighted this year.

However, Stella was very positive about the state of the Common, the annual taking of hay has resulted in very good 'wildflower meadow' conditions.

The number of Adder's Tongue fern plants was on the increase, and there was also an increase in the number of quaking grass and pepper saxifrage plants.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June, Chris Batey, our 'owl man' emailed to say that he had checked the Boyland Common owl box, and had found that the owls were breeding there again this year and there was one chick.

He will check again in August in the hope that there may be a second brood.

Now that better weather seems to have arrived, the Common may have a chance to dry out just a little, and visitors will be able to enjoy a peaceful stroll along the paths, identifying some of the flora and Fauna that make this place so special.

Pam Ross, Chairperson of the 'Friends of Boyland Common'

*PJ Ross 27.6.24*