



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **An Afternoon Seaside Walk**

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020  
Weather: Heavy cloud and misty 6 degrees  
Walk Leaders: Audrey Walker and Harold Jones  
Attendees: 18

Southbourne is the most easterly suburb of the Borough of Bournemouth, Dorset, situated between Boscombe and Christchurch. Fisherman's Walk beach is located between Southbourne and Boscombe. Mostly sand, with some shingle, the beach has safe swimming, deckchair hire, beach huts and a cafe. Due to its distance from central Bournemouth, this beach is usually less crowded and less hectic than the main beaches and possesses a coveted Blue Flag. Accessed from Southbourne Overcliff Drive, the Fisherman's Walk Cliff Lift was opened in 1935 and is still operational in the summer season offering a direct route from the cliff top to the beach.

Our walk started by Fisherman's Walk Cliff Lift at Cafe Riva, following the cliff top footpath westwards passing through Boscombe Cliff Gardens and descending down to Boscombe Pier. The pier was built in 1888/9, the pier head was added in 1926, it was partially demolished during WWII to combat the threat of invasion. The pier remained derelict for a number of years and was only fully reopened in 1962.

We returned walking along Boscombe Promenade where we saw Goats grazing the cliffs near Honeycombe Chine, a developed area of what was the seafront car park. Goats were brought over from the Isle of Wight and used to control the non-native plants such as Holm Oak, Garden Privet and Pampas Grass. More goats are planned for a site on the East Cliff of Bournemouth. The cliffs within the bay are designated SSSI and have been subject to cliff falls due to erosion. We ascended Fisherman's Walk Zig-zag back to our start point, finishing with afternoon tea at Cafe Riva.

<b>Flowering Plants</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Mammals</b>
Gorse	Carrion Crow	Rat
Sweet Alison	Herring Gull	Goats
Daisy	Black-headed Gull	Grey Squirrel
Rough Sow-thistle	Pied Wagtail	
Groundsel	Wood Pigeon	
Rosemary	Stonechat	
Sweet Violet	Robin	
Common Field Speedwell	Chaffinch	
Seaside Daisy	Starling	
Shepherd's Purse		
Danish Scurvygrass		



*Sweet Violets by Lyn Traves*