

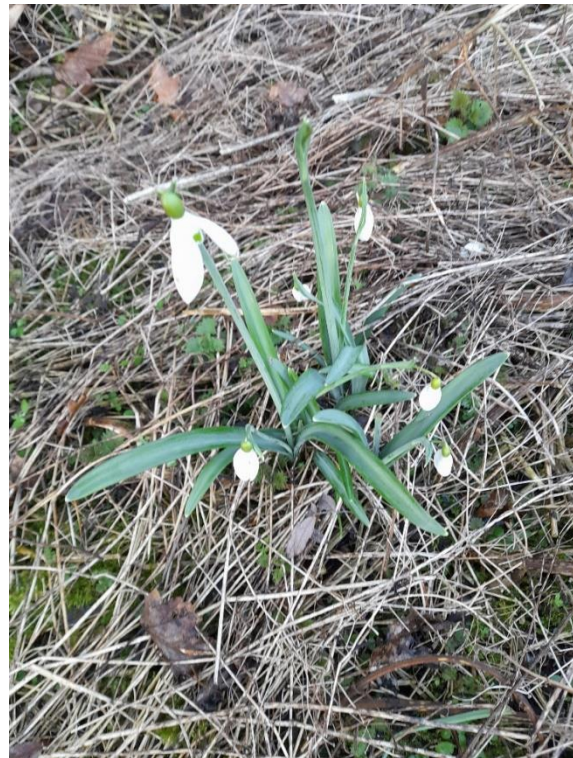
Vc95 Field Meeting Report: Alves, 22nd Feb 2023

Three species of Snowdrops are found naturalised in Alves Wood. *Galanthus nivalis* (Snowdrop) is the snowdrop that is generally found naturalised in Moray. Also in the wood is *Galanthus elwesii* (Greater Snowdrop) and *Galanthus plicatus* subsp. *plicatus* (Pleated Snowdrop) both rare escapes in Moray.

Despite a little rain at the start of the afternoon, 17 of us had an enjoyable afternoon especially once the sun came out. We started off by looking at Snowdrops, seeing **Pleated Snowdrop** and **Snowdrop** near the entrance to Alves Wood. Then further along the track we also had **Greater Snowdrop** and what looked like the **hybrid** between Greater Snowdrop and Snowdrop. Both Greater and Pleated Snowdrops have broader leaves than Snowdrop. Greater Snowdrop has very flat leaves while all the other species have 'v' shaped leaves. Pleated Snowdrop is the only species to have leaves with margins inrolled especially when young.

We then had a look at a variety of conifer and broadleaved trees, see species list. Andy Amphlett also showed us how to identify *Hypericum x desetangii* (*H. maculatum x perforatum*) (**Imperforate St John's-wort x Perforate St John's-wort**), a hybrid that is probably overlooked. This hybrid was common in places along the track we walked along.

A link to Andy Amphlett's paper on Birches - "Identification and taxonomy of *Betula* (Betulaceae) in Great Britain and Ireland" is here: <https://britishandirishbotany.org/index.php/bib/article/view/84>. The paper covers a lot of ground, and includes lots of photos illustrating ID features.



Galanthus elwesii (Greater Snowdrop), left, and *Galanthus plicatus* (Pleated Snowdrop), right



Galanthus nivalis x *elwesii*
(Snowdrop x Greater Snowdrop)

Species list for the field meeting – trees in bold

<i>Scientific name</i>	Common name
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Galanthus elwesii</i>	Greater Snowdrop
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i> x <i>elwesii</i>	Snowdrop x Greater Snowdrop
<i>Galanthus plicatus</i> subsp. <i>plicatus</i>	Pleated Snowdrop
<i>Hypericum</i> x <i>desetangsii</i> (<i>H. maculatum</i> x <i>H. perforatum</i>)	Imperforate St John's-wort x Perforate St John's-wort
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Stag's-horn Clubmoss
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka Spruce
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Salix</i> sp.	a willow
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Fringecups
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Western Hemlock-spruce
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein