

## **Knowle Park Nature Notes: April**

This month the trees and shrubs burst into leaf with fresh, vibrant green foliage and wild flowers begin to open, such as Bluebells and Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) with its pale cream to deep yellow flowers.

The butterfly season gets into full swing this month, they can be found bathing in the sun to absorb its warmth giving them the energy to fly. The adult butterflies emerge from hibernation, lay eggs, these turn to caterpillars and they then pupate. The brimstone, small tortoiseshell, peacock, orange tip, comma and red admiral are usually the first butterflies you will see.

Birds become more vocal in April, but it isn't until May that all the breeding species arrive back. Listen out for the first Cuckoos of the year and look for any swallows to arrive. Blue tits and blackbirds can have first bird broods this month.

Badgers are now very active, their sets have been spring cleaned and both adults and early young forage at night. Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) also come out of hibernation.



**Primrose**



**Hedgehog**