

Five Flowers for Fownhope

March - April

The greatest variety and number of wild plants in Fownhope grow in the woodland and grassland on the Silurian limestone ridges. Many wild plants also grow along the river bank, roadside verges, hedgerows and in old orchards.



Wood Anemone or Wind Flower – woodland and in places which may have been wooded. Often growing in large patches. The flowers face towards the springtime sun and follow its daily progress through the leafless woodland canopy. The stems and flowers have a distinctive movement when being blown by March winds. An indicator that the woodland is ancient.



Lady's Smock, Milkmaids or Cuckoo Flower – damp woodland and grassland, along ditches, near ponds and riverside. The flowers vary in colour from white to lilac. Often grows in drifts or patches. At their finest when the cuckoo returns.



Blackthorn – woodland edge and hedgerows. The first brave tree blossom of spring appears in February on the many varied and thornless cherry-plums. The second brave blossom of spring appears in the hedges on blackthorn in March. The pure white flowers grow from black, leafless twigs in dense clusters often around ferociously sharp spines. Blackthorn can grow into unapproachable thickets formed by vigorous suckers that provide excellent cover and safe nesting sites for birds.



Ground ivy – woodland, grassland, field boundaries, verges, beneath hedges. Usually in shade and forming a 'carpet'. It has a distinct and pleasing smell – very much of walking through fresh grass at the beginning of spring. It is a dead nettle not on ivy, but it does grow long trailing ivy-like stems.



Celandine – everywhere – woodland, grassland, verges, riverside, mostly where it is shaded and slightly damp. The very first gold of spring with heart-shaped leaves.