

# 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.



**Red Dead-Nettle** – roadsides, tracks, field boundaries and gardens. A short, square-stemmed plant of cultivation and disturbance with heart-shaped aromatic leaves. The pale to dark purple flowers have a protruding lower lip. A valuable early source of nectar for bees.



**Wild Cherry or Gean** – woodland and occasionally in hedges. The delicate clusters of white blossom come before the leaves in early April. Cherry often grows naturally in groups of many stems within the wood, and particularly along the woodland edge, producing drifts of blossom, as along the lower slopes of Cherry Hill.



**Dandelion** – grass verges, fields and disturbed ground. One of the first glorious golds of spring sometimes in abundant yellow drifts in fields and along roadsides. These familiar flowers grow from a rosette of leaves with jagged edges described in the past as being like lion’s teeth or ‘dent de lion’.



**Common Field Speedwell** – roadside verges, field boundaries and gardens. A short, often spreading plant of disturbed ground. It is one of the many ‘blue-eyed Veronicas’ and usually the lowest petal of each flower is white.



**Cowslips** – woodland and unfertilised grassland. Deep yellow fragrant flowers with orange spots in the centre. Many flowers grow together in a nodding one-sided cluster held up to the sun by a short delicate stem.