

Five Flowers for Fownhope

May - June

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.



Hawthorn or May Blossom – woods and hedgerows. A native tree producing clouds of glorious, creamy white, strongly scented blossom usually by the second week in May. Often buzzing with pollinating insects.



Greater Butterfly Orchid – at the side of shaded woodland paths on Common Hill, occasionally in grassland. A striking creamy-white flowered, vanilla-scented spring orchid with a single pair of leaves at ground level. The flower has a long 'lower lip' and a long backward pointing spur. Pollinated by night-flying moths.



Ivy-leaved Toadflax – walls. Trailing stems forming a cloud of leaves, resembling ivy leaves, and lilac flowers with a yellow centre. Whether toads use this beautiful plant to make linen has not yet been researched.



Herb Robert – woodland, along hedgerows and verges, often on disturbed ground. A short, common and exquisitely delicate pink-flowered wild geranium. Seeds, stems and leaves often turn red.



Ox-eye Daisy, Moon Daisy or Dog Daisy – grassy roadside verges, grassland that has not been recently ploughed. Patches of tall, large flowered, bright eyed daisies turning towards the springtime sunshine.