

Five Flowers for Fownhope

October - November

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.



Spindle – hedgerows and woodland. A slender native shrub with delicate leaves, distinctive bark, four-sided green twigs and extraordinary four-lobed richly pink berries that open to reveal bright orange seeds.



Hawthorn – hedgerows and woodland. The dense sprays of creamy-white May blossom mature into dark red haw berries, which in un-flailed hedges provide vital autumn and winter food especially for blackbirds, redwings and field fares.



Gorse – open, often dry grassland and woodland edge. ‘Love’s in tune when the furze is in bloom’ – which is just as well because there are always some flowers present in every month of the year. Sharply spiked leaves with strikingly yellow flowers smelling of coconut in warm autumn sunshine.



Field Maple – hedgerows and woodland. The two-winged (samara) ‘keys’ often become pink or red as they mature. The leaves become strikingly yellow and are often radiantly illuminated by autumn sunshine.



Bryony – hedgerows. Scrambles over hedges and into shrubs and small trees to produce necklaces of wonderfully bright red berries that often remain on the plant until mid-winter. White and black bryony are unrelated plants and are difficult to identify from their strings of poisonous berries.