

# 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.



**Foxglove** – woodland, gardens, stony places. The tall spires of pink flowers are often abundant in woodland after felling or coppicing. They have many associations with nursery rhymes, myths and magic. Pollinated by bumble bees that make their way right into the tubular flowers.



**Elderberry** – hedges, woodland. A rapidly growing shrub that produces clouds of creamy white, distinctively fragrant flat-topped clusters of flowers. These can be used to make cordial, wine and 'champagne', all of which have the essential taste of summer.





**Red Clover** – grassy verges and meadows. This wonderful nitrogen fixer often has a whitish crescent on the familiar trifoliate leaves. Widely planted in grass leys, they bring colour to summer pastures.



**Meadow Buttercup** – meadows, orchards, damp grassy places. Cattle grazing between golden buttercups herald the beginning of summer. The leaves are delicately and deeply divided and distinguish the meadow buttercup from the creeping buttercup.



**Common Spotted Orchid** – woodland, grassy places particularly on limestone. The second of the common orchids to flower. The narrow leaves usually have dark spots. The beautifully intricate flowers are usually pale pink with dots and lines of crimson and purple.