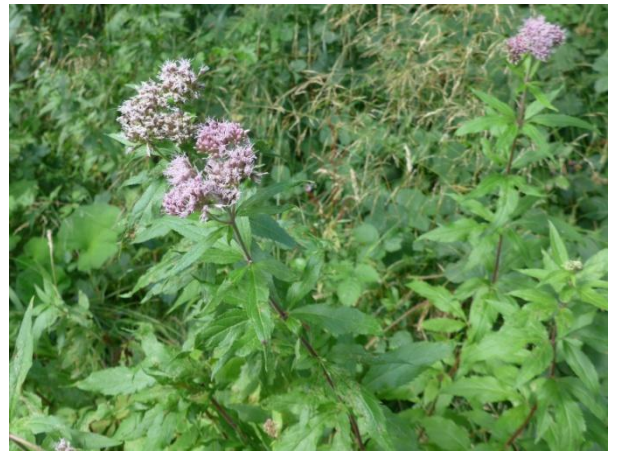


Five Flowers for Fownhope

August - September

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.



Hemp Agrimony – damp places, ditches, along streams and by the river. Tall and downy, often with reddish stems, hemp-like leaves and clusters of light pink to reddish mauve flowers adored by late summer butterflies.



Hops – scrambles over hedges, also cultivated. Grows rapidly with square, rough, hairy, clockwise-twining stems (bines) up to six metres long. Male and female flowers grow on different plants. The female flowers produce these richly scented fruit which are one of the four essential ingredients of ale and beer.



Red Bartsia – grassy roadsides, on tracks, in gateways, poorly drained places. Low growing with soft hairy stems and leaves, and pink flowers protruding from purple bracts. Often the whole plant is richly reddish-purple. It grows partly by attaching itself to other plants, particularly grasses.



Fleabane – wet ditches and damp grassy roadsides. Soft woolly leaves and stems with flat-topped bright daisy-like flowers that later become brown seed heads. Could deter fleas.



Devilsbit Scabious – damp grassland, woods and roadsides. Grows in patches with spear-shaped leaves, the rounded heads of the dark blue-purple flowers give uncut damp late summer grass a blue haze. A valuable source of nectar for butterflies. Apparently the Devil bit off the root in a fit of bad temper, but this may not be true.