

Five Flowers for Fownhope

February - March

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.



Dog's Mercury – woodland, beneath hedgerows, in places which may have been wooded in the past. The first spring green in the woods. Often in large, dense patches. The female and male plants live separately – one patch will be all female, the next all male. Pollen is carried from the males to the female by the wind.



Coltsfoot - roadside and trackside verges - one of the first yellow flowers at the roadside. The flowers are held singly on stems which have soft, often purplish scales. In late spring when flowering is over, heart-shaped leaves develop. They are green above and a felted silver-white beneath.



Wild Daffodils - woodland and unfertilised grassland. In stark contrast with the many larger, louder cultivated varieties, wild daffodils are short-stemmed and often a remarkably delicate pale yellow. As they move in the wind they trumpet the arrival of spring.



Violet - woodland, verges and hedgebanks. A plant that is immensely varied and diverse in colour, scent, markings and growth habit. Strikingly beautiful and delicate violet, purple, lilac or white flowers showing first through the brown stems and debris from last year.



Primrose - woodland and shaded hedge banks. Springtime pale yellow flowers usually in shaded places, held up on short, slender downy, often pinkish stems above a basal rosette of leaves. They are a valuable source of early nectar for brimstone and tortoiseshell butterflies.