

## WILDFLOWERS IN THE CHURCHYARD

### **Barren Strawberry**

*(Potentilla sterilis)*

Looks rather like a wild or cultivated strawberry, but is a smaller plant, with smaller flowers, and it does not form fruit. The flowers are white, 10 to 15mm, with gaps between the slightly notched petals, which are usually well separated from one another, not overlapping. , The leaves are matt and darker.

Flowers: from February to May.



### **Primrose**

*(Primula vulgaris)*

A plant of woodland clearings, hedgebanks, waysides and open grassland preferring damp, clayey soils. Flowers are typically pale yellow (although white or pink forms can be found), green-veined, 3cm across, borne singly on stalks. Leaves are wrinkled and form a rosette, tapering gradually to the stalk, each up to 15cm long.

Flowers: from March to May (but flowers may appear from late December onwards).



### **Field Woodrush**

*(Luzula campestris)*

A common plant of grassy areas such as lawns, greens and downlands. A short, tuft-forming rush, it has distinctive grass-like leaves that are fringed with long white hairs. Its brown flowers form rounded clusters on top of greenish stems. Flowers appear from April to May, earning it another common name of 'Good Friday Grass'.

Flowers: from April to May.



**Meadow Saxifrage**

(*Saxifrage granulata*)

A short to medium hairy plant. Leaves are mostly basal, kidney shaped, lobed or bluntly deep toothed. Flowers are delicate snow-white with five petals, 18 to 30mm, in loose branched clusters. Can be found in meadows, pastures, roadside verges and other grassy places.

Flowers: from April to June.

**Meadow Buttercup**

(*Ranunculus acris*)

Widespread and common perennial in meadows and pastures, and found in parks, gardens and woodland edges. It prefers slightly damper, calcareous sites. It has yellow flowers, about 2cm across that comprise five, shiny petals, with rounded leaves divided into three to seven lobes. It does not possess the runners of the Creeping Buttercup.

Flowers: from April to October.

**Common Sorrel**

(*Rumex acetosa*)

Common, upright plant, up to 60cm, often found in grasslands, along woodland edges and roadside verges. It is a perennial with arrow-shaped leaves that grow from the stem at the base of the plant. Reddish flowers are carried on slender spikes.

Flowers: from May to June.



**Cow Parsley**

(*Anthriscus sylvestris*)

A hollow-stemmed, tall plant that grows rapidly in the summer before dying back. It likes shady habitats in particular, and can be found decorating woodland edges, roadside verges and hedgerows. The flowers are large, flat white umbels (umbrella-like clusters), and the leaves are large and fern-like. One of several common members of the carrot family, this is the most abundant and the earliest-flowering of the roadside umbellifers, collectively referred to as 'Queen Anne's Lace'.

Flowers: from May to June.

**Common Cat's-ear**

(*Hypochaeris radicata*)

Tiny yellow flowers cluster into flower heads that resemble small dandelions, yellow, 20 to 30cm. Unlike the dandelion, the common cat's ear has branched flower stems and coarse yellowish leaf hairs. Low to short plant, with a basal rosette of wavy edged leaves. Common in grassy areas and short turf, roadside verges and lawns.

Flowers: from May to October.

**Oxeye Daisy**

(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

A typical grassland plant, thriving on roadside verges and waste grounds, hay meadows and field edges. Easily identified by its large, round flower heads that appear on single, tall stems. The daisy-like flower head is a composite of a number of tiny flowers which make up the central yellow disc and the surrounding white 'ray florets' (which look like petals). It has spoon-shaped leaves at its base and thin, jagged leaves along the stem.

Flowers: from June to August.



**Common Knapweed**

*(Centaurea nigra)*

A thistle-like plant that can be found on all kinds of grasslands from roadside verges to woodland rides, cliff tops to lawns. It is a huge favourite of all kinds of butterflies including Common Blues, Marbled Whites and Meadow Browns. It has flower heads with bright pink florets (tiny flowers), surrounded by a crown of long, ragged, pink bracts (leaf-like structures), and deeply divided, oblong leaves.

Flowers: from June to September.

