



Hazel

Corylus avellana

Description: Hazel is a tall shrub growing to 6m beloved for its 'lambstail' catkins. The catkins are yellow and male and the female flower is the brilliant tiny red bright red style on the stem above. The plant is normally found with oak, scrub and in hedges.

The shrub produces an edible hazelnut in Autumn much loved by squirrels.

Flowers: January to March

Location: This example was amongst hedgerow plants up near Peel Hall.

Lords and Ladies

Arum maculatum

Description: The unusual Lords-and-Ladies - known also as Cuckoo Pint - has a curious flower design in which tiny flowers are densely whorled around a cylindrical spadix which is surrounded by a leaf-like spathe with leaves that are broad and arrow shaped.

It grows in damp shady places and often is found in woods and hedgerow.

Flowers: It flowers from April to June and produces the familiar orange-red spike of poisonous berries from late July.

Location: This specimen was found growing at the start of Shay Lane in Ashton.

Notes and information

We live in a beautiful rural area of Cheshire and wildflowers grow all around us.

Some wildflowers are attractive, others less so, and some grow where we don't really want them!

But they are all a part of a web of Nature; the wider wildlife community of which we are a part.

For example, the hedgerows are a haven for wildlife with lichens, mosses, flowering plants supporting insects, birds and small mammals.

Can you find the wildflowers on this sheet?

Please remember not to pick the flowers so they can be enjoyed by others!

If you can't identify the flowers, let us know as we'd be delighted to help.

Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth Wildflower Group

<https://ashtonhayespc.co.uk/community-info/guide-to-wildflowers/>

Spring Issue 1





Green alkanet

Pentaglottis sempervirens

Description: Green Alkanet is a tufted, roughly hairy, medium/tall perennial to 1 metre. The flat flowers are bright blue with white honeyguides and up to 10mm in diameter. The leaves are pointed oval in shape and abruptly contracted at the base with the lower leaves stalked.

It can be found growing in hedges, woodland borders, waysides and is a rapidly spreading native species. Often this plant grows wild in gardens and can be difficult to contain.

Flowers: March to July

Location: This photograph was taken on Manley Lane near the old Post Office/Shop but grows throughout the area.

Wood speedwell

Veronica montana

Description: Wood Speedwell is a low, short and sprawling perennial with small, delicate flowers that are dwarfed by their much larger leaves. The stems are hairy, the leaves toothed and long stalked and of a rather pale yellowy- green appearance. The flowers are pale lilac with darker streaks.

The plant is usually found in woodlands or at the bottom of hedges

Flowers: early Spring until well into July

Location: This photograph was taken in the hedgerow of Chapel Lane but where did you find it growing?

Red campion

Silene dioica

Description: Red Campion is a medium/tall perennial growing up to 1 metre in height. The stems are downy with bright rosy-pink, unscented flowers with the petals each having a distinct cleft. The leaves are lanceolate with long winged stalks.

The plant grows in rich soil in light shade in woods and hedgerows, but along stream banks.

Flowers: early March until well into November.

Location: This photograph was taken on the roadside bank down beyond the Village Hall but it can be seen throughout the area.

Lesser Celandine

Ficaria verna

Description: This low hairless perennial of the Buttercup family is one of the first heralds of spring. The flowers are solitary with glossy yellow petals often fading to a whitish hue. The leaves are long stalked, heart-shaped dark green often with dark or light patches.

This is a plant of grassland, hedgerows, woods and bare ground.

Lesser Celandine can be found throughout the area.

Flowers: January to April

Location: This example was found growing on a sunny grassy bank at the bottom of The Meadows.