

# Henbury Millennium Green

## *Wildflowers Month-by-month*

*(don't be disappointed if they aren't all there – it all depends on the weather – and you might have to search for some of them)*

### January/February/ March

**Snowdrop** (Jan/Feb – may be later)



**Primrose** (Feb/March – may be earlier or later)



**Daffodil** (March/April may be later)



**Buttercups and daisies** (as soon as the sun comes out and right through the year until frost!) Daisy chains and buttercup *and* daisy chains for all.



**April/May/June/July/August (then we need to mow)**

**Bluebell** (April/May)



**Bird's-foot Trefoil** – “Bacon and Egg”



(often all yellow)

**Lady's Smock** – *voted the County Flower of Cheshire in 2002* (April/May/June)



**Cowslip** (*a newcomer – all by itself 2014!*)  
April/May – hopefully will multiply



**Ox-eye Daisy** (from May)

**Ragged Robin** (from May)



**Knapweed** (late May on)



**Field Geranium** (June on)



**Purple Clover and White Clover** (low on the ground – bees love it)



**Common Mallow** (can be almost white)

**Yellow-rattle**



(semi-parasitic on grass – stops the grasses taking over)

### **Purple Vetch**



### **Rosebay Willowherb (fireweed)**



**Ragwort** – should normally be rogued out because it is lethally poisonous to cattle and horses in dried hay (they don't eat it fresh) but is essential for Cinnabar Moth caterpillars – best left until mowing time and then removed before cutting – but one plant produces about a million seeds which can be carried on the wind for up to three miles!



**Teasel**

**Yarrow**



**By the Bridge – March/April/May/June/July/August**

**Yellow Flag Iris**

**Meadowsweet**



**Water Avens**



**Purple Loosestrife**



## Hemp Agrimony



## Sneezewort



## Creeping Thistle



**Nettle...** don't fall in...



**...but Dockleaves** are never far away



Essential for some butterfly and moth caterpillars

The traditional antidote

**The wildflower area** is not “wild” – it has to be maintained like a “natural”, traditional, wildflower meadow which is really a managed source of grazing in spring and of hay in summer to provide winter feed for livestock. The beauty would have been incidental – the meadows developed long before silage and haylage (and grass monocultures) were thought of and the wild flowers seeded themselves. In spring we may need to mow to keep the grass down (rarely necessary as far north as Cheshire) to mimic early grazing and we mow in late summer to harvest and remove the hay. This prevents composting of the vegetation on site because perennial wildflowers, beautiful as they are, need impoverished soil to flourish.

The Green is now well enough established for naturally seeded wildflowers to find a home (such as the field geranium) but it still needs regular maintenance. Any volunteers would be welcome to contact one of the Trustees to find out how they can help.

In summer we mow paths through the wildflowers for people and especially children to walk through and meet the butterflies and other insects (and the occasional frog, toad, mouse, rabbit, shrew or vole) – and keeping to the path isn’t compulsory. Children are welcome to pick the flowers to “take home to Mum” – all we ask is that the flowers are picked but the plants not uprooted.

A useful source of information is *Collins Gem Guide to Wild Flowers*; hip-pocket sized, not entirely comprehensive but good illustrations.

DJW 2014



### Self-sown Newcomers June 2014

**Nipplewort**



**Selfheal**

