

A photograph of a forest floor in early spring. The ground is covered with a dense carpet of small, white, bell-shaped snowdrops. Interspersed among the flowers are patches of brown, fallen autumn leaves. Several bare, deciduous trees stand in the background, their thin trunks and branches silhouetted against a bright sky. The scene is bathed in soft, natural light, suggesting a sunny day.

Looking forward to spring
MAu3a Wildflower Group

Snowdrops

- Give us hope early in the year
- *Galanthus nivalis*
- Earliest cultivation in England 1597
- Over 2,000 named garden varieties

Pam Geeson & Kay Mathur



Winter Aconite

- *Eranthis hyemalis*
- A 'sunshine splash of yellow amongst the snowdrops'
- Rosalind Fleming



Common Hazel

- Dangling yellow male catkins
- Tiny bright pink filaments of the female flowers



- Judith Holt



Wood Anemone

- Many local names
- Legends link this flower to love
- Poultice applied to the forehead is said to cure a headache
- Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* ...

Karen Hale



Germander Speedwell

- A good luck charm for travelers, speeding them on their way
- Culpepper tell us it is "most effectual against the poison of all serpents"
- Photo taken at Curbar Gap
- Anne McConnell



Box

- *Buxus sempervirens*
- Highly manicured garden plant for topiary and hedges but left wild becomes a shrub
- Pale yellow flowers
- Late winter and early spring
- The hard, even textured wood was used for engravings e.g. by Thomas Bewick

Irene Hayward



Common Violet

- *Viola riviniana*
- Lots of local names – blue mins, cuckoo's shoe, pig violet
- Crucial Larval food for fritillary butterflies
- Symbolizes modesty
- Pam Johns



Ransoms

- From Anglo-Saxon hramsa also Brandy Bottles, Stinking Liliy
- An indicator plant for ancient woodland
- Mentioned in Lanunga, the Anglo-Saxon herbal
- Delicious in Wild Garlic Pesto,
- Rick Osbourne.



Meadow Saxifrage





Bluebell

- Native English or Spanish?
- Another marker of ancient woodland
- Symbolises humility, constancy, gratitude
- Bulbs crushed to make starch of Elizabethan ruffs
- Sticky sap used for glue
- Toxic

Ann Middleton



Early Purple Orchid

Ophelia's garland

*"Of crow-flowers, nettles, daisies,
and long purples, that liberal
shepards give a grosser name, but
which cold maids do Dead Men's
Fingers call"*

- *Shakespeare, Hamlet*

- Colin Hawthorne

