

The flowers that bloom in the Spring tra la ...

Every year it catches me out – you start to think that, at last, winter might be over when suddenly the Cow Parsley is out in flower! I always think of Cow Parsley as a summer flower – visions of warm afternoons and lanes lined with floppy borders of Cow Parsley seem to fit with flitting butterflies and



droning bumble bees But no, my flower book clearly says “flowers April to June”. But perhaps the combination of living near the sea, which means warmer winters, and this year’s rather balmy spring means that the Cow Parsley actually is earlier than I expect.

Anyhow, it arrives at the end of a procession of spring flowers in the hedges starting off with the shiny yellow stars of Celandine and the truly beautiful pale yellow posies of Primroses. Then there are the robust greeny-yellow towers of Alexanders, and the puffy white bunches of Scurvy Grass. Dotted in between the bigger plants are the delicate white stars of Greater Stichwort whilst on the flatter weedier areas the cheerful sunny saucers of dandelions provide a welcome splash of colour.

But the best is yet to come – waiting in reserve are the Red Campion and the Foxgloves, which will burst on to the scene in a blaze of pink throughout May and June.

I always think it is such a shame that most visitors to the area miss this magical display. Early summer is often strangely quiet here for visitors, yet the flowers, not only on the hedgebanks but on the cliffs, are absolutely at their peak. The cushions of pink Thrift, the yellow vetches and trefoils, blue Sea Squill, White Campion, the carpets of Bluebells on Skomer – these are all worth coming to Pembrokeshire to see as a sight in themselves.

By July and August, sadly, it is all over.

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