

Walk through 23rd May 2019



Beetle feeding on nectar of Cow parsley



Craneflies – good bird food



Soldier beetles, *Cantharis rustica*, identified by a love heart behind their heads. They only like tall grass and open woodland.



A Click beetle, *Athous haemorrhoidalis*, found in meadows. Like all click beetles, it can flick itself into the air when laid on its back – an action which makes a click sound.



Common daisy, *Bellis perennis*, good for pollinators



Cuckooflower, *Cardamine pratensis*, 'pratensis' is Latin for meadow, and it generally flowers at the same time as Cuckoos call.



Cow parsley, an English name given to it which just means an inferior version of real parsley.



Cut-leaved crane's-bill, *Geranium dissectum*, because the leaves are so deeply divided and the group of Crane's-bills are named after the shape of the seed pods.



Flies are also pollinators and are good bird and spider food.



Germander speedwell, one of the many speedwells which is meant as 'speed you well'. In the 18th Century it was known to cure gout.



Tufted-hair grass, grows in clumps and has silica spines down the leaf edge.



Hoverfly mimicking a bee and resting and hiding amongst the long grass.



A seven-spot ladybird, one of our 46 British ladybird species.



Mole hills. Moles are good for aerating soil, eating grubs like leatherjackets, Crane fly larvae, that eat plant roots, and digging up archaeology!



Meadow buttercup, a classic meadow plant



Peacock butterfly, so called because the wing 'eyes' look like Peacock feather 'eyes' and are to confuse predators. They overwinter as adults in trees or buildings.



Spiders will sit in long grass waiting for prey to go past, good bird food.



Ribwort plantain, attracts many small butterflies, moths and hoverflies, and provides a good source of food for birds in winter.



Soft brome with its zig-zag patterned flower heads



Meadow foxtail, with flower heads that look like fox tails, grows in tufts in meadows.



A Honey bee on Cat's ear flower, feeding on the nectar and collecting pollen.



White dead-nettle, these have square stems and this type don't sting you.

The different heights and different vegetation structure all create different habitats within the flower meadow. The more different habitat types there are the more creatures that will be suited to each type which increases diversity. This year's seed that was sown at the end of March will really make a difference and improve what's already present next year.



