

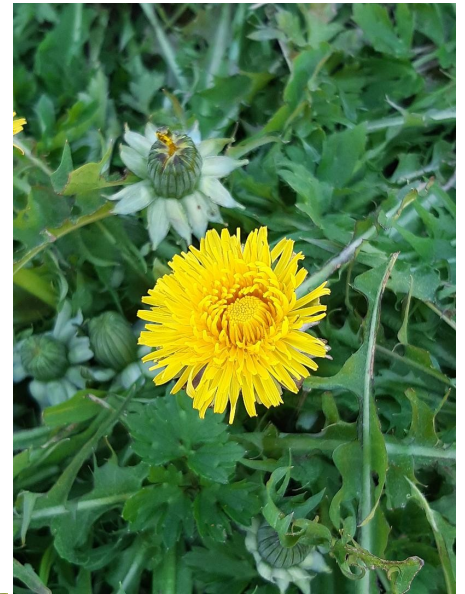


A Month by Month Look at Millie Bank - April 2021

Millie Bank - April

Despite some warm days, it's still cold most nights, so not too many flowers are up for it just yet. No prizes for guessing one plant keen to show off at this time of the year, but give yourself a pat on the back if you can identify which of around **250** species of **Dandelion** this is! Humans persecute dandelions, but, if bees ruled the world, they would worship them.

Dandelion



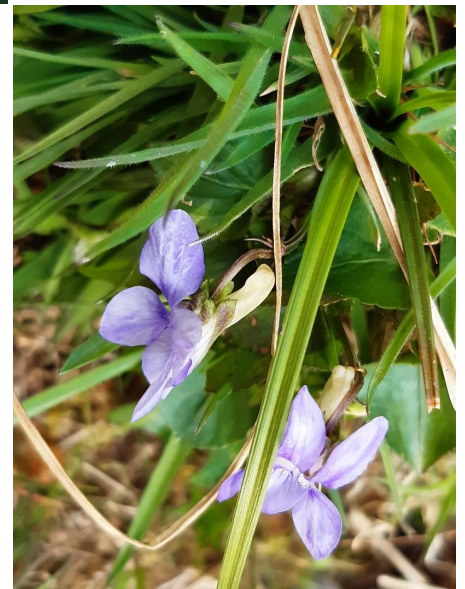
One rush we are always pleased to see is **Field Wood-rush**, not least because of its Latin name *Luzula campestris*. It is common in unimproved grassland (not that there is much of this left), and, although not brightly coloured, is worth a closer look.



Field Wood-rush,

Violets are always a welcome sight, but there are quite a few species, and exact identification isn't always easy. Most of the ones you might see are likely to be Common or Early Dog-violets, but look out for Sweet Violet, our only fragrant violet, which often has white rather than purple flowers. Also, be aware that hybridisation often occurs (and does on Millie Bank), just to confuse the amateur botanist! This specimen is Common Dog, *Viola riviniana*.

Violets





Wood Anemone

Despite its name, **Wood Anemone** will grow in the open, although it never looks quite as happy in full sun as it does nestling in the shade among Spring woodland flora. It is also known as Windflower as it quivers in the breeze, and Smell Fox - for an obvious reason!



Barren Strawberry

The leaves of **Barren Strawberry** have been visible for some time, but you might well miss its small, delicate flower. Unlike its relative the Wild Strawberry, it doesn't set fruit, spreading happily via its long rooting runners.



Silky Wall Feather-moss

Moss of the Month is (probably!) *Homalothecium sericeum*, or **Silky Wall Feather-moss**, a mouthful of a name either way. This specimen was growing on the large ash tree above the plantation, but, as its name suggests, can often be found on walls.



Bitter-cress

When the surgery was extended, contractors created an area of hard-standing on the other side of the metal gate. Although from a distance it looks a barren area, quite a few plants have made their home there including this tiny **Bitter-cress** (probably Hairy Bitter-cress). The whole plant is less than 2cm across, and its size and very dark purple leaves suggest it is suffering from stress!



Yellow Archangel

Although not growing on Millie Bank, there is quite a lot of **Yellow Archangel** in the woodland just past the surgery on the right. The silver patches on most of its leaves means that it is the naturalised form of the plant, but you might be lucky to see the native version (without patches) in old woodland.

Nigel and Lois Harbron