



## MARCH

The inconspicuous flowers of dog's mercury can be seen in ancient woodlands, and later in the month wood anemones are also abundant in coppiced woods. Hazel and alder catkins are coming to the end of flowering, but distinctive pussy willow catkins appear. Before the dandelion appears, the wayside plant often mistaken for it by those too hurried to look properly is the coltsfoot.



Pussy willow catkins

Alongside streams, behind watermills, the strange pink and white butterbur flowers appears, which like the coltsfoot the flowers emerge ahead of the leaves.

Shiny flowers of lesser celandine reflect the sun on warm days in carpets of gold, and drifts of primroses and pockets of sweet violets with hedges white with billowing flowers of blackthorn make it a joy to be in the countryside. Blackthorn flowers ahead of its leaves emerging (unlike the later flowering hawthorn that waits until it is fully in leaf). On heathland gorse is in flower.

The small tortoiseshell Butterfly wakes up and emerges from overwintering places like garden sheds and about on sunny March days, and similarly some peacock butterflies are about.

7-spot Ladybirds are soaking up the sun on warm days having emerged