

Binsted Wildflower Walk



Jan Wood
Emma Tristram

Illustrated by Belinda Wilkins
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BINSTED WILDFLOWER WALK

*The walk begins at St Mary's church, Binsted in the parish of Walberton, near Arundel, West Sussex.
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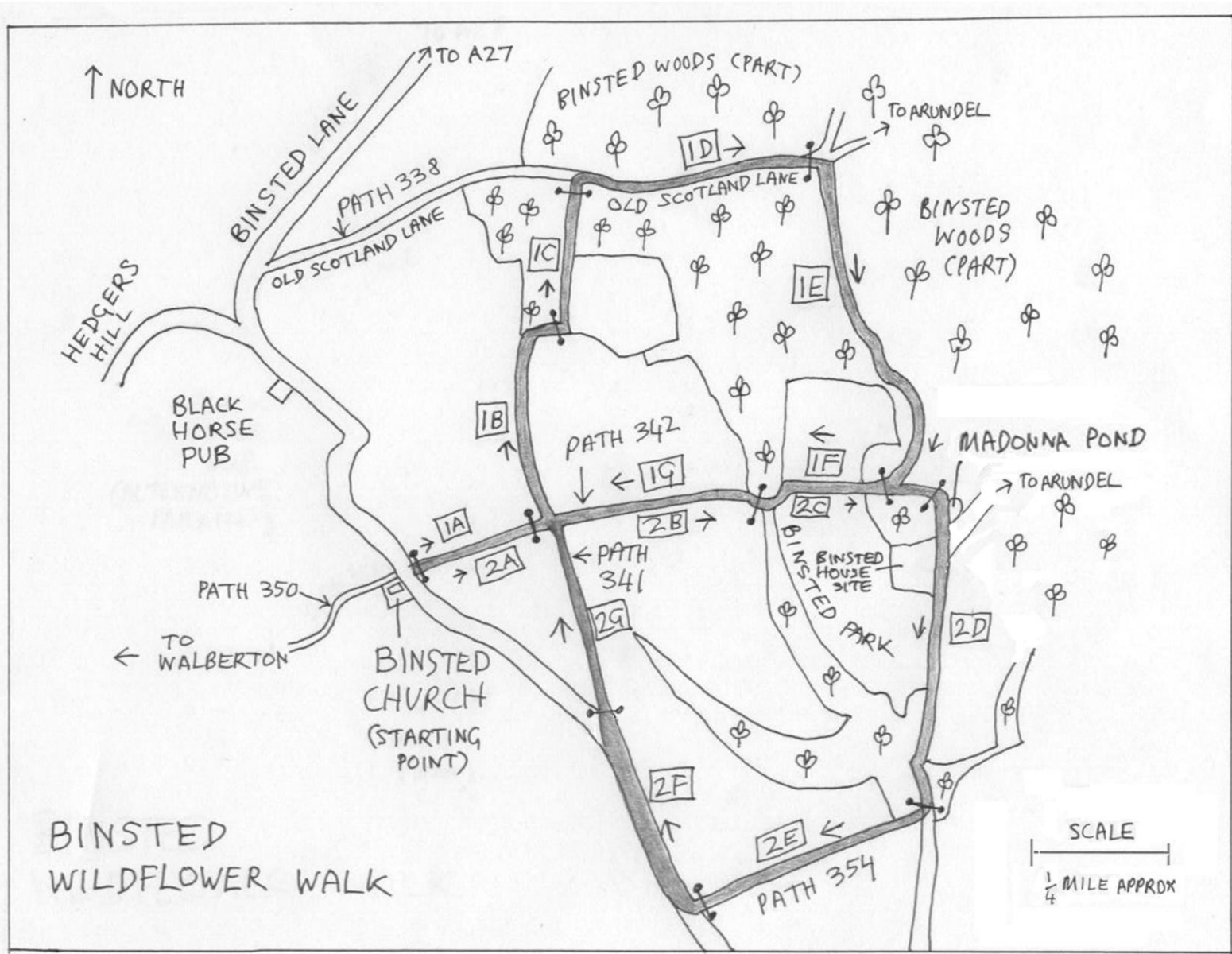
This walk can be followed as one longer loop (approximately 2.9 miles) or can be divided into two shorter walks, Walks 1 and 2. Walk 1 is 2.2 miles, Walk 2 is 2.1 miles. Each of these is divided into seven sections A to G for identification of plants. A map can be found at the back of this leaflet. The walks cover a variety of habitats which include fields, hedgerows, woodland, ponds, streams and roadsides. Each walk includes a list of plants found and their location. Some parts of the walks can be muddy at times, so boots may be needed.

The idea for this walk grew out of the 2005 Hedge Survey organised for WAG by Christine Llewellyn with a team of volunteers. However, only two sections, 1B and 2G, were part of that survey; the whole of both walks was surveyed separately for the leaflet over a year. We have identified plants to the best of our ability, but cannot guarantee absolute accuracy.

Note: In the next few years this walk may be partly or wholly in the South Downs National Park. The proposed boundary goes along the edge of the main part of Binsted Woods, enclosing some fields, but leaving out Lake Copse, the Shaw (woodland south of Spinningwheel Copse) and Binsted Park. You would enter the National Park when you entered the woods at 1C (or part way through 2C). At 1F (or beginning of 2C) you would be walking along the edge of the National Park.

Various other boundaries were suggested. The Park itself is being delayed by legal problems. Depending on the outcome, there may be renewed efforts to put the Arundel Bypass through Binsted, along something like the 'Green route' (rejected in 1993) which went right through Binsted Park and the fields traversed by this walk, splitting Binsted Woods into three.

Enjoy them while you can!



Binsted Wildflower Walk 1

Section 1A

Starting at Binsted Church, cross the lane and take the path straight ahead (known locally as Muddy Lane) alongside a flint wall. In Spring, note the Snowdrops and Primroses at the base of the corner of the wall as you begin. Further along this stretch, striking tall yellow Mullein flowers can be seen in summer. The big open fields on the left and straight ahead were the central common land of Binsted parish in Mediaeval times, farmed in strips. Continue until you reach the public footpath signs pointing left and right, and turn left onto:-

Section 1B

This ancient hedgerow, once partly woodland, supports a wide variety of species over the year. A survey of it by Mike Tristram in 2002 found over 100 woody and herbaceous species. The hedge forms a link for wildlife between the main part of Binsted Woods to the north, and Lake Copse to the south. It is also part of a small stream valley and you can see a ditch or winterbourne (stream which flows in winter) alongside the hedge, where the poisonous Water Dropwort grows. The path bends round beside the field edge, and here Snowdrops can be found in early spring. A little further on, turn left at the signpost into Binsted Woods:-

Section 1C

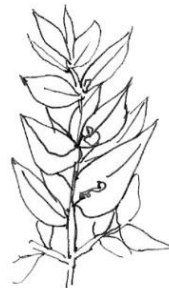
Binsted Woods are 250 acres of mixed deciduous woodland, mainly Oak and Ash. The path runs between mossy banks on which can be found Male Fern, Hart's Tongue Fern, Pendulous Sedge and Butcher's Broom, among other things. Further into the woods, you can glimpse the adjacent field to the right, enclosed



Horehound



St John's Wort



Butcher's Broom

within the woods, which has a wonderful display of Marsh Orchids in early summer.

Continue until you reach a footpath sign. Here, you turn right onto Old Scotland Lane. The name derives from that of the adjoining woodland, called 'Scotland', and refers to a payment known as a 'scot'. Margary, the noted Roman road expert, defined this lane in 1947 as part of the Roman road from Chichester to Brighton, though the existence of this route has still to be proved.

Section 1D

The path continues on through the woods, crossing a couple of small streams. In spring, look for Early Purple Orchids, Violets, Primroses, Wood Anemones and Bluebells. When you reach the footpath crossroads, turn right onto:-

Section 1E

Here, the tree canopy lightens. Holly, Sweet Chestnut, Hawthorn and Hazel are among the trees bordering the path and in autumn, their nuts and berries can be found. At the footpath sign, turn right along the path leading out of the woods and on to:-

Section 1F

The path opens out into the beautiful open space of Binsted Park, completely surrounded by woodland. This was the mediaeval-style parkland (created, as we can tell by looking at old maps, between 1780 and 1813) of the now vanished Binsted House. A track crossing the Park was removed, and woodland cut down, leaving several enormous Oak trees, one of which still survives at the south end of the Park.

Follow along the hedge to your right. It contains seven 200-year-old Ash trees, 'one with the fungus King Alfred's cakes', according to Richard Williamson, the



Wood Anemone



Yellow Pimpernel



Hawk's Beard

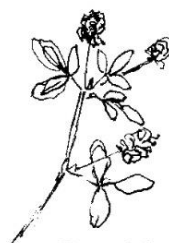
wildlife writer, in a recent Chichester Observer article. Here many and various flowers can be seen on the path and in the Park. In modern times the Park has been ploughed but it is currently in setaside. The path bends round past a venerable Oak tree (Richard Williamson estimates it is 350 years old), then dips down and up again, with a stream visible on your left. To your right is Spinningwheel Copse, where Bluebells and Early Purple Orchids can be seen in spring. Now climb a slight rise out of the stream valley and on to:-



Early Purple Orchid

Section 1G

Continue along the edge of the field, looking for flowers in the hedgerow and field edge. Note the newly planted mixed hedge on the left, made possible by a grant in 2003 to WAG from SITA Environmental Trust. The hedge was 'laid' (branches partly cut through, bent over and intertwined) in spring 2007 to encourage dense growth. The hedge contains various species including Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Guelder Rose and Hazel, with standards including Oak and Wild Cherry. Look for flowers, catkins, fruits and nuts over the seasons. Bright red Poppies flower here in summer. This path brings you back to:-



Hop trefoil

Section 1A

Walk back along Muddy Lane and so back to your starting point at Binsted church.



Early summer view of Section 1B

WALK 1 FLOWER LIST		I A	I B	I C	I D	I E	I F	I G
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow		*					
Adoxa moscatellina	Moscateal					*		
Ajuga reptans	Bugle				*	*	*	
Alliaria petiolata	Hedge garlic	*	*					
Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet pimpernel		*					
Anemone nemorosa	Wood anemone			*	*	*		
Anthemis arvensis	Corn camomile							*
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow parsley	*	*	*	*			
Arctium pubens	Burdock	*	*					
Arum maculatum	Wild arum			*	*	*		
Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue fern			*	*			
Ballota nigra	Horehound	*						
Bellis perennis	Daisy							*
Briza media	Quaking grass			*	*	*	*	
Calystegia sepium	Bindweed		*					
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's purse	*						
Carex pendula	Pendulous sedge			*	*	*	*	
Carex sylvatica	Wood sedge			*	*	*		
Chrysanthemum vulgare	Tansy	*						
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's nightshade					*	*	
Cirsium arvense	Creeping thistle	*	*					
Conopodium majus	Pignut		*					
Crepis taraxifolia	Hawksbeard						*	
Cruciata laevipes	Crosswort		*					
Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved toadflax	*						
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove						*	*
Dipsacus laciniatus	Teasel		*					
Dryopteris felix-mas	Male fern			*	*	*		
Endymion syn. Hyacinthoides non-scriptus	Bluebell	*		*	*	*	*	
Epilobium angustifolium	Rosebay willowherb		*					
Euphorbia amygdaloides	Wood spurge			*	*	*		
Galanthus nivalis	Snowdrop	*	*					
Galium aparine	Goosegrass	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

WALK 1 FLOWER LIST		I A	I B	I C	I D	I E	I F	I G
Geranium dissectum	Cutleaved cranesbill		*				*	
Geranium molle	Soft cranesbill						*	
Geranium robertianum	Herb robert	*		*	*	*		*
Geum urbanum	Wood avens	*		*	*	*	*	*
Glechoma hederacea	Ground ivy	*	*		*	*		
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	*	*				*	*
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St. John's wort		*					
Juncus conglomeratus	Common rush						*	
Lamium album	White dead nettle	*	*					*
Lamium purpureum	Purple deadnettle		*					
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort		*					*
Leontodon taraxacoides	Hawkbit	*						
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle		*	*		*		
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow pimpernel				*	*		
Malva moschata	Musk mallow		*					
Malva sylvestris	Common mallow		*					
Matricaria inodora	Mayweed		*	*				
Myosotis arvensis	Common forget-me-not		*					*
Oenanthe fistulosa	Water dropwort		*					
Orchis mascula	Early purple orchid			*	*		*	
Papaver rhoeas	Common red poppy							*
Pentaglottis sempervirens	Alkanet	*	*					
Picris hieracioides	Hawkweed		*					
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain							*
Plantago major	Great plantain							*
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass		*					
Potentilla sterilis	Barren strawberry					*		
Primula vulgaris	Primrose	*		*	*	*	*	*
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal						*	
Ranunculus acris	Meadow buttercup						*	
Ranunculus auricomus	Goldilocks buttercup	*						
Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser celandine	*		*	*	*	*	*
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	*	*				*	*
Rosa canina	Dog rose	*		*	*	*		*
Rubus fruticosus	Blackberry	*	*			*	*	*

WALK 1 FLOWER LIST		I A	I B	I C	I D	I E	I F	I G
Rumex acetosa	Common sorrel	*	*	*	*	*		*
Rumex obtusifolius	Dock	*	*			*	*	*
Rumex scutatus	Buckler-leaved sorrel		*					
Ruscus aculeatus	Butcher's broom			*	*			
Sagina procumbens	Pearlwort	*						
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle				*			
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort		*					
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel		*					*
Silene dioica	Red campion	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sisymbrium officinale syn. Melandrium rubrum	Hedge mustard		*					
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet		*					*
Sonchus oleraceus	Common sowthistle	*	*					
Stachys sylvatica	Wood woundwort		*		*			*
Stellaria graminea	Lesser stitchwort		*					*
Stellaria holostea	Greater stitchwort		*		*	*		*
Stellaria media	Chickweed	*					*	
Symphytum officinale	Comfrey	*						
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	*			*		*	*
Trifolium campestre	Hop trefoil						*	*
Trifolium repens	White clover						*	
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Verbascum nigrum	Dark mullein	*						
Veronica arvensis	Wall speedwell		*					
Veronica chamaedrys	Common speedwell	*	*				*	*
Veronica montana	Wood speedwell			*	*	*		
Vicia sativa	Common vetch						*	*
Viola riviniana	Violet	*		*	*	*	*	*
Viola tricolor	Heartsease		*					

Walk 2

Section 2A

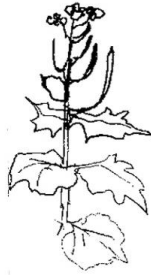
Starting at Binsted Church, cross the lane and take the path straight ahead (locally known as Muddy Lane) alongside the flint wall. In Spring, note the Snowdrops and Primroses at the base of the corner of the wall as you begin. Further along this stretch, striking tall yellow Mullein flowers can be seen in Summer. The big open fields on the left and straight ahead were the central common land of Binsted parish in mediaeval times, farmed in strips. Continue up to the public footpath signs pointing right and left. Carry straight on to:-

Section 2B

Walk alongside the field, looking for flowers in the hedgerow and field edge. Note the newly planted mixed hedge on the right, made possible by a grant to WAG from SITA Environmental Trust in 2003. The hedge was 'laid' (branches partly cut through, bent over and intertwined) in spring 2007 to encourage dense growth. The hedge contains various species including Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Guelder Rose, and Hazel, and some standard trees. Look for flowers, catkins, fruits and nuts over the seasons. Bright red Poppies flower here in summer. Continue straight ahead onto:-

Section 2C

Here the path slopes downwards, with a stream on your right and Spinningwheel Copse on your left, where Bluebells and Early Purple Orchids can be seen in Spring. Now climb a slight rise out of the stream valley, continuing along the path which bends round past a venerable Oak tree. You are now walking along the edge of the beautiful open space of Binsted Park, completely surrounded by woodland. This was the mediaeval-style



Hedge Garlic



Scarlet Pimpernel



Bugle

parkland (created, as we can tell from old maps, between 1780 and 1813) of the now vanished Binsted House. A track crossing the Park was removed, and woodland was cut down, leaving several enormous Oak trees. One still survives at the south end of the Park.

Follow along the hedge to your left. (See Walk 1, part 1F for a comment on the Ash trees.) Here many and various flowers can be seen both on the path and in the Park. In modern times the Park has been ploughed but it is currently in setaside. At the end of this hedge the path plunges into the main part of Binsted Woods, 250 acres of deciduous woodland, mainly Oak and Ash.

Continue on through the woods, turning right at the footpath sign which takes you along the edge of the Madonna Pond. WAG has been involved in pond clearing activities here, attempting to remove the 'alien' weed, Parrot's Feather, as well as quantities of dumped rubbish. Rest for a while on WAG's recently acquired tree-trunk seat overlooking the pond where you may spot the invasive pondweed Potamogeton, yellow Irises, and Water Lilies.

The much-visited shrine was first put here by Lorna Wishart in the early 1950s. The pond is one of three linked ornamental ponds created by the Read family of Binsted House to go with their Park. The most southerly pond has been drained; the small northerly pond is still there but the bridge and 'Lovers' Walk' have gone.

Climb over a stile and turn right onto:-

Section 2D

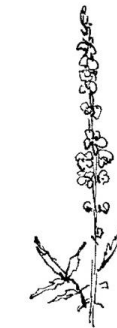
In early Spring, look for a large patch of Snowdrops on your left among some trees. On the right of the track is the site of the demolished Binsted House, where there is planning permission for a large new house. The track opens out between hedgerows as it crosses the southern end of Binsted Park. The remaining large old Oak from the mediaeval-style Park can be seen on the right.



Self-Heal



Yellow Flag Iris



Agrimony

The track enters the woodland of the Shaw and slopes down a hill and slowly up again. Blackthorn, Elder, Blackberries, Honeysuckle, Old Man's Beard and Wild Rose are among the many plants in these hedgerows and roadsides. Turn right at the next footpath sign, just before the first house on the right. It crosses a small wooden bridge and passes through a garden. At the field boundary, continue onto:-

Section 2E

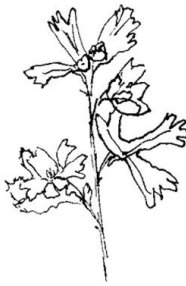
The path continues along the field edge with the hedge to the right. This section hosts many flowers. In summer, search at the field edge for smaller species like the tiny Field Pansy and Scarlet Pimpernel, which contrast with the taller Thistles and Mallows. When you meet Binsted Lane, turn right onto:-

Section 2F

Note on the left side of the lane a small, square flint and stone building which was the old Binsted school house. A collapsing flint wall beside it has Rusty-Back Fern growing on it, unusual south of the Downs. Walk along the lane for some way until you see ahead of you the old flint barn next to the plant nursery. A little way before this is a footpath sign to your right. Climb the stile and follow on to:-

Section 2G

Enter the field. The path runs along another newly planted mixed hedge, again made possible by a grant to WAG in 2003 by SITA Environmental Trust. Halfway along, you cross a small wooden bridge, continuing along with the nursery and a hedge to your left. In the summer, tall Thistles, Burdock, Teasels and Hogweed can be seen. At the footpath sign turn left onto Muddy Lane and so back to Binsted Church.



Musk Mallow



Chickweed



Greater Willowherb

WALK 2 FLOWER LIST		2 A	2 B	2 C	2 D	2 E	2 F	2 G
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow				*			
<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	Moschatel				*			
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony				*			
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle			*		*	*	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Hedge garlic	*			*			
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel		*					
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood anemone					*		
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn camomile		*					*
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	*		*	*			
<i>Arctium pubens</i>	Burdock	*			*			
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Wild arum					*		
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Horchound	*						
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy		*					*
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass			*		*	*	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Bindweed				*			
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherds purse	*						
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy bittercress				*			
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous sedge			*		*	*	
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood sedge					*		
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Hardhead				*			
<i>Cerastium holostoides</i>	Common mouse ear		*					
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Rosebay willowherb					*		
<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>	Red goosefoot				*			
<i>Chrysanthemum vulgare</i>	Tansy	*						
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanters nightshade			*	*	*	*	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	*			*			
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle				*			
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Lesser bindweed					*		
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut					*		
<i>Crepis taraxifolia</i>	Hawksbeard			*			*	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivyleaved toadflax	*						
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove			*			*	*
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Teasel							*
<i>Dryopteris filix mas</i>	Male fern					*		

WALK 2 FLOWER LIST		2 A	2 B	2 C	2 D	2 E	2 F	2 G
Endymion syn, Hyacinthoides nonscriptus	Bluebell	*		*		*	*	
Epilobium hirsutum	Great willowherb							*
Euphorbia amygdaloides	Wood spurge					*		
Galanthus nivalis	Snowdrop	*			*			
Galium aparine	Goosegrass	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Geranium dissectum	Cutleaved cranesbill			*			*	
Geranium molle	Soft cranesbill			*			*	
Geranium robertianum	Herb robert	*	*	*	*	*		*
Geum urbanum	Wood avens	*	*	*		*	*	*
Glechoma hederacea	Ground ivy	*			*	*		
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	*	*		*		*	*
Hypericum perforatum	St. John's wort		*					
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow flag				*			
Juncus conglomeratus	Common rush			*	*		*	
Lamium album	White dead nettle	*	*		*			*
Lamium purpureum	Purple deadnettle				*			
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort		*		*			*
Leontodon taraxacoides	Hawkbit	*	*		*			
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle				*	*		
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow pimpernel			*		*	*	
Malva moschata	Musk mallow				*			
Malva sylvestris	Common mallow				*			
Matricaria inodora	Mayweed					*		
Myosotis arvensis	Common forget-me-not		*		*			*
Oenothera biennis	Evening primrose				*			
Orchis mascula	Early purple orchid			*			*	
Papaver rhoeas	Common red poppy		*					*
Pentaglottis sempervirens	Alkanet	*						
Picris hieracoides	Hawkweed					*		
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain		*					*
Plantago major	Great plantain		*		*			*
Potamogeton sp.	Pondweed				*			
Potentilla reptans	Creeping cinquefoil				*			
Potentilla sterilis	Barren strawberry					*		
Primula vulgaris	Primrose	*	*	*		*	*	*

WALK 2 FLOWER LIST		2 A	2 B	2 C	2 D	2 E	2 F	2 G
Prunella vulgaris	Self heal			*			*	
Pulicaria dysenteria	Fleabane				*			
Ranunculus acris	Meadow buttercup						*	
Ranunculus auricomus	Goldilocks buttercup	*						
Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser celandine	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	*	*		*		*	*
Rosa canina	Dog rose	*	*	*	*	*		*
Rubus fruticosum	Blackberry	*	*		*	*	*	*
Rumex acetosa	Common sorrel	*	*	*	*	*		*
Rumex obtusifolius	Dock	*	*			*	*	*
Ruscus aculeatus	Butchers broom				*			
Sagina procumbens	Pearlwort	*						
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort		*		*			
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel		*					*
Silene dioica	Red campion	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge mustard							
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet		*		*			*
Sonchus oleraceus	Common sowthistle	*						
Stachys sylvatica	Wood woundwort		*		*			*
Stellaria graminea	Lesser stitchwort		*		*			*
Stellaria holostea	Greater stitchwort		*		*	*		*
Stellaria media	Chickweed	*					*	
Symphytum officinale	Comfrey	*						
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	*	*		*		*	*
Trifolium aureum	Large hop trefoil			*			*	*
Trifolium repens	White clover			*	*		*	
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Verbascum nigrum	Dark mullein	*						
Veronica arvensis	Wall speedwell					*		
Veronica chamaedrys	Common speedwell	*	*		*		*	*
Veronica montana	Wood speedwell			*	*	*		
Vicia sativa	Common vetch		*	*			*	*
Viola riviniana	Violet	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Viola tricolor	Heartsease		*			*		



common mallow

burnet saxifage

common mouse ear

lesser hawkbit

Lime

sun spurge

green alkanet

herb robert

dog violet

Ox eye daisy

St Mary's Binsted

yarrow

birdsfoot trefoil

bluebell

lords and ladies

snowdrop

knapweed

View the original of this illustration by Belinda Wilkins in St Mary's Church, Binsted