

Country Notes for March 2017

One of my favourite poems is 'Adelstrop' written by Edward Thomas, who, for a while in the early 1900s, lived in our neighbouring village of Bearsted. He wrote a lot of nature poems - and another delightful poem of his is entitled 'March'.

Now I know that spring will come again,
Perhaps tomorrow: however late I've patience
After this night following on such a day.
While still my temples ached from the cold burning
Of hail and wind, and still the primroses
Torn by the hail were covered up in it,
The sun filled earth and heaven with a great light
And a tenderness, almost warmth, where the hail dripped
As if the mighty sun wept tears of joy.

March marks the transition from winter to spring - and some days look backwards, and we feel the cold of winter cutting right through us. There can, indeed, still be days of snow and frost. However on other days there is a warmth in the sunshine, just as Edward Thomas noted, that hints of better things to come.

One of the real pleasures of March is witnessing the flowers that begin to brighten our days as the month progresses. The poem 'March' particularly singles out the primrose, and quite rightly so too! Nowadays there are primroses in many colours but the true native wild primrose has a much more dainty flower and a wonderful pastel yellow colour. These flowers can often be found nestling beneath a hedge or on a bank where they hope for a little protection from any late winter weather that might come their way. They sit there to beckon in the spring but they are canny enough to know that a cold winter blast containing flurries of snow or hail may still be worth hiding from.

There are plenty of other flowers in March to brighten our days, but there is no doubt that the sight of a clump of primroses cheers the soul and lifts the spirit!

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