

Country Notes for March 2021

It is said that some people hear music in colours. They listen to a piece of music and the colour sits in their head as they do so. I have to say that I do not. I do however find that I associate some months with a particular colour, and March is very clearly yellow in my mind. As we wander around the fields and gardens of our villages there are so many flowers welcoming in spring by producing yellow flowers, and what a delight it is after an often long and gloomy winter.

The preponderance of yellow may well have something to do with the fact that so many people grow daffodils in their gardens and, as many of you will have noticed, they are also planted beside our lanes and on our village greens. I, for one, can never have enough of daffodils and I feel a sense of loss as they finish, usually towards the end of April. Of course, daffodils may also be found in cream and white, but it seems that yellow is the principal colour.

We have two native daffodils in this country. One is the Tenby Daffodil which is found largely in Wales, apart from those areas where it has been deliberately introduced. The other is the pseudonarcissus. This may be found in many areas of our country and is probably the daffodil which Wordsworth saw in the Lake District and which prompted his famous and often quoted lines about a 'host of golden daffodils'. It would be good to see more in our villages as they are readily available and truly beautiful.

Another plant which provides a display of yellow in March is the celandine. It has to be said that not all gardeners are thrilled to have celandines in their gardens, but they do provide a wonderful carpet of yellow in our woodlands, lanes and hedgerows in March.

Lastly, but by no means least, is the primrose. The flowers of the primrose are rather more demure than the bold yellow of celandines and some daffodils, but there can be no doubt that the sight of primroses nestling at the base of a hedge as we wander our villages is a true delight of the season. Their flowers are a more creamy yellow, with a darker, almost orange, centre.

What delights we have in store for us this month!

Andrew G Snowdon