

Plants recorded in the Shakespeare Meadow, May to September 2011

Dicotyledons

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Monk's-hood
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Cerastium holostoides</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Lychnis flos-cocull</i>	Ragged-Robin
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk-mallow
<i>Origanum vulgare?</i>	Wild Marjoram
or <i>Origanum majorana?*</i>	Pot Marjoram
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme
or <i>Thymus vulgaris*</i>	Garden Thyme
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch

Grasses

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass

continued on page 2

<i>Bromus sp.</i>	
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's tail
<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye Grass
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy

The total number of species recorded was 48 including those marked *

*Garden species have no place in a wild flower meadow.

One reason for this increase in species diversity is better recording.

The flora of the meadow has been under-recorded because recording had to be done from the sidelines to avoid trampling.

Recorded Insects

Bumble Bees and Honey Bees were not as abundant as in 2010. Was this caused by another very cold and prolonged winter?

Butterflies recorded were: Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Skipper and Large White but were not as abundant as in 2010.

References

Stace, Clive (1977). New Flora of the British Isles. CUP

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MANAGEMENT OF THE SHAKESPEARE MEADOW

The management suggested for autumn 2009 to spring 2010 is still relevant.

The present regime of strimming the grass paths and the surrounding grass areas which have not been developed as meadow is keeping the coarse agricultural grasses under control. In addition Roger Green who is doing the strimming is careful to preserve any wild flowers growing in these areas. This is one reason responsible for the increase in species diversity.

UB September 2011