



## APRIL

If you are lucky enough to have true wild daffodils in your area they are in flower. In damp grassland the pretty lady's smock (or cuckoo flower) also flowers. The rare fritillary is also in flower sadly in too few remaining meadows, (but worth going to see). On drier, south-facing slopes, the equally rare pasque flower traditionally meets Easter in symbolic purple colouring. More commonly on grassy banks and in meadows cowslips are a welcome sight. The similar native oxlip is only found in ancient woods on the north-west Essex, south Cambridge, south-west Suffolk Borderlands. Far more widespread, bluebells and early purple orchids begin to flower in our ancient woodlands. Heart's ease, the wild pansy brings its colour. The wayside has starry-white greater stitchwort, and purple flowers of ground Ivy, plus taller stem with fresh green leaves and white flowers of garlic mustard. Wet woods fill with the scent of the native wild garlic or ramsons as their white flower heads open. Less welcome to those with horses, the Oxford ragwort flowers.

As the poem says "*Oh to be in England now that Aprils there, .....while chaffinch sings....*"  
However, some start in March. Willow warblers too can be heard in April.



The bee-fly

April 25th: St. Mark's Day – the St. Mark's fly is seen flying about around this day, large black flies with dangling legs.

The orange-tip butterfly visits the hedge garlic. The bee-fly which so resembles a bee is about, yet its distinct hover and long proboscis give away its true identity. The common buff-tailed bumble bee can be seen on the wing in April, as can some hover