

## I Spy August 2017

	<p><b>Betony</b> (<i>Stachys officinalis</i>) This plant can be found on slightly acidic and alkaline soils and will tolerate chalk, clay and loam soils. The soil on the upper part of the North Meadow is an ideal habitat for the plant where it can be found from late spring until late summer. It is attractive to bees and butterflies as it is a good source of nectar.</p> <p>How do you think Betony benefits from insects gathering nectar from it?</p>
	<p><b>Great Willow Herb</b> (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>) This is a plant that likes damp places so can be found along the edge of the stream in the North Meadow. It has long narrow seed pods which split open when ripe to show white silky hairs which are attached to tiny seeds.</p> <p>Why do you think there is less or no willow herb growing by the stream in the wooded area of the Mead?</p>
	<p><b>Tufted vetch</b> (<i>Vicia cracca</i>) This plant likes to scramble through the vegetation that surrounds it in the grassland in which it grows. It likes a moist habitat but will not tolerate permanently wet land so higher parts of the North Meadow is an ideal habitat for it. Bumble bees find it an attractive food plant.</p> <p>How do you think this plant makes new plants?</p>
	<p><b>Common Fleabane</b> (<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>) This is a plant of damp habitats and can be found in wet meadows such as the North Meadow in Hocombe Mead. It spreads within the meadow by stolons – a stem that grows at or below ground level. Cattle avoid eating Common Fleabane so it spreads easily but it will suffer from trampling by them.</p> <p>Can you think of anything that will help Fleabane to spread this year?</p>



**Heather** (*Calluna vulgaris*)

This is a plant of acidic or peat soils and is typical of heathland habitats. The small patch of land on the upper path on which Heather grows is the largest patch of the original Chandler's Ford heathland that has survived. It is an important plant as a food source for bees, especially bumblebees, butterflies and moths

Which part of the plant is used for food by bees, butterflies and moths?



**Large White Butterfly** (*Pieris brassicae*)

If it is a sunny day you may be able to spot this butterfly as it is common and widespread throughout Britain. It has brilliant white wings with black tips to forewings, which extend wing edge. The wings are a creamy white underneath and have two spots. Females also have two spots on their forewings which the males don't have. If you see a Large White butterfly can you tell if it is male or female?



**Red Admiral** (*Vanessa atalanta*)

If it is a sunny day you may see one of these large butterflies sunning itself on one of the boardwalks. Each spring and summer butterflies migrate from North Africa and the European continent. The females lay eggs that eventually become the next generation of butterflies that we see from July onwards. What sort of food do you think the butterfly eats?



**Red-tailed Bumblebee** (*Bombus lapidarius*)

The queen of this bee species emerges from hibernation in the spring and starts a new colony by laying eggs that hatch into workers that tend the young bees and the nest. Later in the year males and females emerge. In the autumn the old queen and males die but new queens hibernate. Females are larger than the males with a big red 'tail' the smaller males have a red tail but two yellow bands on the thorax and one on the base of the abdomen.