

## FLOWERS OF CORSTORPHINE HILL

### COMMON DOG VIOLET - *Viola riviniana*

'Blue mice', 'pig violets', and 'shoes and stockings' are just a few of the folk names for these unscented violets. 'Dog' was a derogatory term, often used for wild flowers which were thought to be inferior in some way to their relatives. Hence, dog violet was seen as being inferior to the scented sweet violet.



### LESSER CELANDINE -

*Ranunculus ficaria*

Celandine carpets woodland with a splash of yellow in Spring. The poet William Wordsworth admired the celandine and dedicated one of his poems to the flower. Celandine was introduced as a medicinal herb in the Faroe Islands and the 17th century herbalist Nicholas Culpeper used the plant to treat his daughter for the disease called 'King's evil' or scrofula and claimed that it cured her in one week.



### LESSER PERIWINKLE - *Vinca minor*

Periwinkles are regarded as a symbol of immortality, and were sometimes worn as garlands or crowns in Medieval times by people about to be executed. Also used as a medicine, lesser periwinkle was mentioned by 16th century herbalist William Turner and is thought to have been introduced into this country from the continent.



### PINK PURSLANE

*Montia sibirica*



### HEDGE WOUNDWORT - *Stachys sylvatica*

Hedge woundwort usually grows on richer soils in woods and hedges, often beside nettles. It has an unpleasant smell. Since the days of the ancient Greeks, woundwort has been used to treat wounds and stop bleeding. It was often applied as a poultice, made from the green parts of the plant. Used as a universal cure-all in the past, modern research has shown that the oil from the plant has antiseptic qualities.



### DOG ROSE - *Rosa canina*

The ancient Greeks called the wild rose 'dog rose' because they believed that the roots cured anyone bitten by a mad dog. The Romans adopted the name, *Rosa canina*. A valuable medicinal plant, the syrup from the fruit is rich in vitamin C. During the 2nd World War, tons of rose hips were collected in Britain to provide Rose Hip Syrup for children.



### WOOD ANEMONE - *Anemone nemorosa*

Wood anemones are sometimes called Windflowers, because, according to the Greek writer Pliny, the flowers will not open until the wind blows. Though fragile looking, the flowers are strong and well able to withstand wind. The plant has an unattractive scent and is sometimes called 'smell foxes'. A vinegar made from the leaves is said to have similar medicinal qualities to mustard when used as a poultice.



### FOXGLOVE - *Digitalis purpurea*

Foxgloves, sometimes known as 'fairy bells' in parts of England and Ireland, grow in woods, heaths, banks and rocks and on acid soils. The plant yields the drug 'Digitalin' for use in the treatment of heart complaints, acting as a heart stimulant.



### LEOPARDSBANE *Doronicum pardalianches*