

New Year 2026: churchyard winter flowers

Each year, over the New Year period, the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland undertakes a [New Year Plant Hunt¹](#). So we thought we'd participate in the churchyard this year, especially as there have been few records from our area – you might like to join us in that, or choose another area of the village to survey. The idea is to identify any flowers (wild or naturalised – so garden escapes count but not deliberately-planted garden plants) that are in flower over the New Year. As the survey has been going on since the 1950s, this enables botanists at the BSBI to look for trends over time.



Flowers in bloom might be late flowering or early flowering, and trends in their presence or absence can reflect simple yearly and local variation, climate change and/or habitat changes.



In [last year's survey](#) (of around 20,000 sites), top of the list was the daisy, followed by dandelions, groundsel, white dead nettle, and annual meadow grass.

In Christmas week, we saw primroses, daisies, alkanet and a dog rose all in flower in the churchyard – with dandelions, yarrow, groundsel and ground ivy flowering on roadside banks around the village.



Read more about our churchyard wildlife on our web pages – [St James, Gretton](#)

¹ It's a bit like the [RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch](#) (which this year is on 23-25th January).