



Despite the seemingly endless long cold and grey days, Spring is coming!

The first Spring wildflower can be seen blooming around the streets of Ratby.... But you will need to be sharp-eyed as **Common Whitlow-grass** is one of the smallest of the UK's wildflowers, only growing to 5cm (2 inches) tall! It grows in dry, stony places and in Ratby can be found at the base of walls and the edge of paths. Having 'grass' in the name seems misleading as it clearly isn't a grass – but this comes from an old meaning where 'grass' simply meant a plant. The 'whitlow' part of the name refers to the belief that an extract from the plant would cure a painful nail infection which was called a whitlow.

The tiny white flowers can be very numerous creating a strip of white to brighten up the pavement. If you spot this wildflower, you can submit a record of the sighting on the NatureSpot website where it will be added to the Ratby page.

www.naturespot.org/parish/ratby