



Autumn Lady's Tresses

Sedlescombe Parish Council is committed to preserving the local environment and has noted that there is, on the grass verges in Gorselands, an extra good variety of small wild plants. One of these that flowers as most plants finish for the year is the "Autumn lady's tresses" orchid. The small white flowers twist up the stems that are only a few centimetres high like a plait of hair, hence the name. Although it is astonishingly tolerant of mowing and will often shoot up into flower a few days after the mower has passed, some plants do need to be left to seed to ensure its long-term future.

It is probable that the turfs used for the verges when Gorselands was built came from an area rich in wild plant diversity. As well as the Autumn lady's tresses, plants such as Squinancywort and Hairy Violet have been noted there. These are usually found in chalky areas and so are unusual in this part of the Weald. The grass verges are currently being mown by East Sussex County Council about five times during the season. This mowing schedule seems to suit the wildplants well, encouraging a wide range to flourish.

We hope that you will agree that the grass verges are attractive when covered with small wildplants and will be willing to refrain from mowing the verges outside your property between County Council cuttings and will never spray the verges with weed killer.

Any questions on the above please feel free to phone, write or e-mail the Parish Council?

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