

Willowherb by Frances March

She holds herself upright
with a neat cerise headscarf and tunic,
speaking carefully to the camera.

A creased photo shows her in jeans
at a Syrian market
alone in a broken city.

She talks through tears
of time spent in a Lebanese camp,
insults she won't repeat.

She straightens her back
sips water, smiles,
tells us about her new school.

Beyond her Blackburn window
is a derelict plot.
soon the willowherb will flower.

Willowherb, also called Fireweed, is often the first thing to flower on derelict, burnt or bombed out ground.