



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 47

Summer 2017

# WILTSHIRE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

## Contents

Editor's Ramblings-----	1
WBS on the Web-----	1
Wiltshire Botanical Society Committee-----	1
Savernake Forest-----	2
Colerne and Monks Wood-----	3
Woodborough Hill-----	5
Bishopstone Down and Nightingale Wood-----	6
Cloatley Meadows -----	7
Meadows at Mere-----	8
Jones's Mill, Pewsey-----	9
Fivehead Arable Fields SSSI-----	10
Lord's Oak and Penn Common-----	11
Botanical Recording in 2017-----	12
Atlas Recording Days-----	12
Trip to the Burren-----	14
The Conyza Fleabanes-----	17
A Tribute to Tom Cairns-----	19
Protected Road Verges -----	21
Two new books by John Presland-----	22
The Orchid Hunter-----	23
Plant Records 2016-----	24
County Recorder's Review 2017-----	30
Subscriptions-----	31

## Editor's Ramblings

Members send me splendid photos to include in the newsletter. Apart from Issue 22 which had a colour centre-spread, past issues of the newsletter have been black and white. This has been frustrating because striking colour differences are often reduced to similar shades of grey and flowers fade into their background. I have often had to interfere with the colour balance of photos to make flowers stand out from their green foliage.

So, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to our first colour issue. It is obviously more expensive to print in colour but we have saved money in various ways (sometimes accidentally) to make this possible.

- For the last two years, we have only produced one issue rather than a summer and winter edition and may continue to do so.
- We will probably incorporate articles for "Wiltshire Botany", the society's journal, into the newsletter rather than publishing it separately ("Plant Records" is already included).
- We have found a printer who will produce in colour at a reasonable cost.

Again on cost saving, we have considered making the newsletter available only as an internet download. This would exclude people who do not use the internet, but we could print a small number of copies for these people. Also, many people prefer to have a permanent

paper copy rather than reading an ephemeral version on a computer screen. It will be interesting to gather opinions on this at the AGM.

This newsletter contains reports from most of our outdoor meetings, but also a variety of other articles. Meeting reports make up a standard part of our content, but other articles add value and interest. Please do write up any ideas, stories, notes, advice, keys, ID tips or quizzes that might be suitable and send them in. Anything considered!

Richard Aisbitt

## WBS on the Web

Do take a look at our website at [www.wiltshotsoc.co.uk](http://www.wiltshotsoc.co.uk), where you will find Sharon's "Plant of the Month" and many other things.

There are two articles by members as downloads (click the "More" tab, then "Publications & Downloads"):

### Archaeology offers clues to history of a Small-leaved Lime tree at Inwoods

Dave Green's fascinating account of his attempt to determine the history of an enigmatic lime tree by examining archaeological evidence for the area.

### Juniper regeneration in the Porton Ranges

Read the fascinating account of a three-year study of regeneration of Juniper in the Porton Ranges, written by WBS members Anne Appleyard, Sue Fitzpatrick, Ailsa McKee and Pat Woodruffe.

### Also look at our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/> - and search for Wiltshire Botanical Society or use this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Wiltshire-Botanical-Society-146460415451041/> for more news and photos.

## Wiltshire Botanical Society Committee

Richard Aisbitt	Chair, Newsletter, Co-Recorder	01793 694680	<a href="mailto:richard@theaisbitts.co.uk">richard@theaisbitts.co.uk</a>
Anne Appleyard		01980 610 385	<a href="mailto:anneappleyard@tiscali.co.uk">anneappleyard@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Martin Buckland	Meetings Secretary	01380 698395	<a href="mailto:martinbuckland8@gmail.com">martinbuckland8@gmail.com</a>
Paul Darby		07919 810458	<a href="mailto:pauljohndarby45@yahoo.co.uk">pauljohndarby45@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Sue Fitzpatrick	Treasurer	01722 410807	<a href="mailto:susan@fitzpatrick7.plus.com">susan@fitzpatrick7.plus.com</a>
Dave Green		07900 248992	<a href="mailto:d.green7@btinternet.com">d.green7@btinternet.com</a>
Penny Lee		01985 215 610	<a href="mailto:firefly.101@virgin.net">firefly.101@virgin.net</a>
Sharon Pilkington	BSBI Recorder for Wiltshire	01373 827074	<a href="mailto:sharon.pilkington1@btinternet.com">sharon.pilkington1@btinternet.com</a>
Alison Robinson	Secretary	01793 731947	<a href="mailto:alisonrobinson300@gmail.com">alisonrobinson300@gmail.com</a>
Pat Woodruffe	Annual Residential Trip Organiser	01794 884436	<a href="mailto:pmw.bentley@waitrose.com">pmw.bentley@waitrose.com</a>

29<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## Savernake Forest

Leader: Martin Buckland

Fair weather and a bumper 24 attendees including six new faces made for a very good start to the season. The visit commenced with a circular route around Birch Copse and then a walk along Cheval Bottom to return to the cars.

Some of the vegetation was perhaps a little late and certainly a little frosted: fern crooks blackened and even some young hawthorn and beech leaves caught. A fine sight though at the side of the ride was of the 'Crookmere Oak' just coming into leaf. This tree is deemed 450 -500 years old and is one of the many ancient oaks named and signed in the forest.

As we were such a large group we divided into two with Richard taking his group on one route through the copse and myself another.

Just past the Crookmere Oak we were surprised to see a few plants of Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata* at the edge of the track. How did it get there and how did it survive without, seemingly, its feet in water?

Under the shade of a tree a singular Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum* was good to see. Often seen as a garden throw-out its position suggested the genuine article. Most of the ferns were too poor to identify because of the weather damage. However one stood out quite well and was attributed as a Scaly Male-fern *Dryopteris affinis* group. Almost anywhere in the forest it seemed there was a Common Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa* to be found so it was a surprise perhaps to find a single plant of Water-Figwort *S. auriculata*



growing with its feet correctly in wet mud to the side of the track.

At a turn off the metalled track onto a grass one, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga* was spotted in a drying muddy patch. Further along amongst familiar Soft and Hard Rushes a keen eye spotted Compact Rush *Juncus conglomeratus*. A Slender St John's Wort *Hypericum pulchrum* was also a good spot but really delightful was a patch of the diminutive flowers of Bog Stitchwort *Stellaria alsine*.

The two groups got back together at Richard's lunch spot next to another aged tree and surprisingly un-named oak yet it had to be 300 + years old.

*Martin Buckland*

The slow-moving botanists (as opposed to Martin's speedy group) got diverted by damp ground around a pond, finding Pill Sedge *Carex pilulifera*, Hairy Wood-rush *Luzula pilosa*, Heath Wood-rush *L. multiflora* and Toad-rush *Juncus bufonius*. There was a puzzling plant with foliage like a miniature Yellow Corydalis nestling under the bracken. Surely not Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*)? I took a sample home – it came up with a bit of root (an accident – honest); after a couple of months in a plant pot, it developed tendrils and little white Corydalis-like flowers, so it was *C. claviculata* after all. Later research showed that although it is typical of more acidic, rocky places, it had been found in Savernake Forest before.

Moving on, we passed over carpets of Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum* in the tracks, with delicate starry yellow flowers on dangly stems.

After lunch and joining the rest of the group, we went on to Cheval Bottom. Natural England would like to change this area's management from semi-natural forest to the increasingly rare wood-pasture, with livestock grazing amongst the trees. They wanted us to see if there was any vulnerable vegetation which might be harmed by

grazing. Basically, no, we did not find much of botanical interest, although there was scattered Pill Sedge and a small Lady's-mantle (*Alchemilla*) in the path. It was probably Hairy Lady's-mantle *A. filicaulis* subsp. *vestita*. Why do I look up the distinguishing features back home when it is too late?

*Richard Aisbitt*





Picnic time - Dave Gadd

Saturday 13 May 2017

## Colerne and Monks Wood

Leader: Sharon Pilkington



Orange Tip on Cuckoo Flower - Alison

Our visit to these woods was a memorable occasion for me not only for the beauty of the woods on a pleasant spring day but also for the company on the day. Increasingly we are gaining younger members and often those who are working in ecology and habitat management. We do hope that our meetings are both enjoyable and also help enhance

their knowledge of plants. Another joy has been to meet up with 'botanists past' – people who I met 30 or so years ago and who, having retired, are finding the time to join our activities. We welcome them all.

Colerne and Monks Wood are owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. In May they were white with a sea of Ramsons or Wild Garlic *Allium ursinum*. The aroma from such plants can be quite overpowering but, fortunately, on the day of our visit the air was relatively garlic free. A few leaves helped add interest to some sandwiches although I understand that the flowers tasted even better. Rest assured that there were more than enough plants to compensate for such small losses! Narrow paths led us through a predominately Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra* woodland in which plants such as Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* found it very difficult to compete with the Ramsons. A couple of dozen botanists walking in single file is not the easiest of situations for the leader but fortunately several members helped by pointing out



Giant Crane fly - Pat

plants of particular interest and helping with their identification.

I found the sharp cut off between populations of Ramsons and those of Dogs Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* fascinating. It appeared that the former favoured wetter ground while the latter grew better on the drier slopes although light levels may also have been significant factors too. In one particular spot Sharon pointed out four delights growing very close



Herb Paris - Pat



Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem - Anne Skinner





Ramsons and Solomon's-seal



Adder's-tongue Fern - Pat



Ramsons flowers - Pat

Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem was still in bud and it was easy to see why it had acquired its common name. Another good find was Narrow Buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* – it does indeed look like an etiolated form of Broad Buckler –fern *Dryopteris dilatata* but has characteristically pale scales without any dark markings.

This was a walk for all interests, from the sheer delight of the woodland in spring to the satisfaction of keying out some atypical-looking sedge. Lesley even managed to spot an aptly named Giant Crane-fly which rested on Ann Skinner's dark coat and was much admired.

Our thanks to Sharon for giving up her precious time to lead the walk and to help everyone with their many questions.

Pat Woodruffe



Anne Skinner

together. These were Green Hellebore *Helleborus viridis*, Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, Solomon's-seal *Polygonatum multiflorum* and Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*. The



Paul Robinson examining Green Hellebore



Sunday 21 May 2017

## Woodborough Hill

Leaders: Paul Darby and Jane Brown

About 14 people (including two from New Forest area!) came along to this locally rather 'isolated' area of chalk grassland to the west of Pewsey.

Although the green-winged orchids (*Anacamptis morio*) were a bit past their best, this was an enjoyable and fruitful trip, and we enjoyed fine weather.

Meeting at the Parish room's car park in Woodborough, we noted a mature wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) on the edge of a garden which was flowering profusely - an encouraging, if unexpected start to the day!

Also noted on the edge of the car park, and considered naturalised in this situation, (from an adjacent garden, we assume) were a few plants of honey garlic (*Nectaroscordum siculum*).

The walk to Woodborough Hill itself took us over the canal and between two arable fields, which yielded a single marginal plant of spreading hedge parsley (*Torilis arvensis*) certainly one of the more unusual finds of the day. A little further on, near the barns, a couple of plants of *Carduus x stangii*, the hybrid between welshed thistle (*Carduus crispus*) and nodding (or musk) thistle (*Carduus nutans*) drew equal interest. Quite rightly, as most of us had never seen it before! Interestingly, neither parent plant was recorded on this visit, possibly destroyed by agricultural sprays, or indeed, not growing on our route to the hill?

On reaching the hill, (which is interestingly, along with Picked Hill, situated away from and to the south of the main chalk scarp, and just above the Vale of Pewsey) the high frequency of upright brome (*Bromopsis erecta*) was noted, and very soon the widespread sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia*) was apparent.

The numerous green-winged orchids were still displaying a variety of colour variations, despite the often fading blooms.

Common twayblade (*Neottia ovata*), wild thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*) and fairy flax (*Linum catharticum*) were amongst the other classic chalk grassland plant species noted. Wonderful views were enjoyed by all from the top of the hill.

On the return journey we took a slight diversion along the canal towpath, and whilst nothing unusual was noted, the flowering branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) was notable for being photogenically in full flower.

A varied and fruitful day was had by all!

Paul Darby



Unusual pink Green-winged Orchid - Paul Darby



Wednesday 7th June 2017

## Bishopstone Down and Nightingale Wood

Leader: Richard Aisbitt

We visited the County Wildlife Site called "Bishopstone Chalk East", a large secluded downland combe. It is owned by Helen Browning's organic farm, Eastbrook Farm, which allows permissive open access. It is a long way northeast in Wiltshire and only five members made the journey and joined the outing.

We started by the duck pond in Bishopstone village and were pleased to see hybrid Pink Campion *Silene x hampeana* on the bank of the pond and Black Spleenwort fern *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* growing in the wall outside Bishopstone School.

The down was already fairly well recorded, with masses of Clustered Bellflower *Campanula glomerata* and Hawkweed Oxtongue *Picris hieracioides*, but we were too early for these to be in flower. We added Hairy Violet *Viola hirta* and Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis* to the known species for the site. Most remarkable were dense stands of Slender Thistle *Carduus tenuiflorus*, a thistle more often seen near the sea. Bastard Toadflax *Thesium humifusum* had been seen here before, but we searched for this without success.

Moving on to Nightingale Wood, our afternoon site, Sue spotted another *Carduus* thistle, this time the hybrid between *C. crispus* and *C. nutans*, on the edge of the Forestry Commission car park. The plants, named *Carduus x stangii*, were large and sturdy, showing hybrid vigour, and had the general appearance of Watted Thistle. However, their flower heads were larger with sticking-out spiky phyllaries like Nodding Thistle. The find was more remarkable in that Sharon Pilkington had only introduced us to this plant two weeks before during a visit to Woodborough.



Hybrid Thistle - *Carduus x stangii*

Our objective was Brook Meadow, a wet area with ponds and a tributary of the River Cole running through. We found dense stands of Common Spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris* in the mud around the partially dried-up ponds, and also Tufted Forget-me-not *Myosotis laxa*. It resembles Water Forget-me-not *M. scorpioides* in appearance and distribution, but often grows beside ponds rather than streams and rivers (look at the shape of the calyx teeth and the length of the style to tell them apart). It is rather less common. There were generous quantities of the invasive Indian Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* along the stream banks.

Richard Aisbitt



Meadow Thistle at Cloatley  
- Paul Robinson

Sunday 11 June 2017

## Cloatley Meadows

Leader: Martin Buckland

The day was a bit dull and overcast, and could have gone either way, but thankfully stayed dry for the day. Seven members and two guests met in the carpark. Thank you to Sharon Pilkington for stepping in to lead the meeting on behalf of Martin Buckland. Sharon, like myself, had not visited this Wiltshire Wildlife Trust site before and started with some background information, before we went through the gate.

Cloatley Meadows lies, on the edge of the Braydon Forest, between Malmesbury and Minety. Three fields; Horse Leaze, Cow Leaze and The Hams are designated as within the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is also possible to see the parallel ridges and furrows left by medieval farming and undulations from the medieval settlement.

The agricultural practices have left an environment of ridges and furrows which creates a pattern of differing soil drainage across the fields and allows a varied community of plants to develop along with their associated insects. The site also supports a good range of woodland, hedgerow and meadow birds.

The underlying geology is Upper Greensand and Gault Clay, so the meadows represent a neutral lowland grassland, which makes them unusual for Wiltshire, as a whole.

The three designated SSSI meadows are unimproved and the remaining meadows are made up of semi-improved grassland. WWT manages the meadows and their site leaflet explains that they cut the meadows for hay every three years in July. The meadows are grazed by Belted Galloway cattle and sheep for the other years, and these graze the tough grasses. The trust has seeded some of the fields with Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, Saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and Betony *Stachys officinalis* to increase the wildflower population.

The meadows did not disappoint us, although the first meadow was mainly grasses, and I recognised Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* amongst others.

Autumn Hawkbit *Scorzonoides autumnalis*, was also in flower, but I need more experience to be confident about these yellow daisies. Great Burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* was also spotted. Further into the site Pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus* was found to be abundant, both in flower and with its dark reddy-brown seed capsules along with Common Marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*. The knapweed was starting to flower as was the Betony. The meadows also support large populations of Common Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, and Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil *L. pedunculatus* and I learnt that as well as looking for a hollow stem to tell *L. pedunculatus* from *L. corniculatus* the angle of the calyx-teeth in the bud is also a useful distinguishing feature, with *L. corniculatus* being erect and *L. pedunculatus* being reflexed.

We soon found a good number of Meadow Thistles *Cirsium dissectum* which are restricted in Wiltshire to areas of greensand and gault clays; from *Wiltshire Flora* these are mainly found in the Minety area.

The SSSI fields yielded various quantities of both Common Spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and Heath Spotted-orchid *D. maculata* and numerous intermediate varieties. I learnt that *D. fuchsii* has deeply 3 lobed flowers, which are pointed, with a longer mid-lobe, whereas *D. maculata* has shallow lobes, with a narrow and short mid-lobe. The patterns on the flowers are also distinctive with *D. fuchsii* being spotted and *D. maculata* streaky. The intermediate forms show much variety and some were quite vigorous.

The pond in Cow Leaze meadow proved a bit disappointing and after lunch we moved on through Hankerton copse, where the remnants of Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (presumably), Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and Primrose *Primula vulgaris* could be seen as well as Wood Millet *Milium effusum* and Giant Fescue *Schedonorus giganteus*



We searched for Toothwort on the Hazel, but were out of luck. We did find Early Dog-violet *Viola reichenbachiana*, an indicator of ancient woodland in the South West.

The unusually dry spring and early summer meant that there was little water in the stream which passes through the upper meadows, and its bed could only be noted by the rushes. At other damp areas on the site we saw Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*.

The walk back to the carpark yielded varieties of roses in the old field hedgerows, Dog-rose *Rosa canina* and Field-rose *R. arvensis*. I was shown that the styles on the Field-rose join together to form a column and this is useful to distinguish them from the white form of the dog rose.

The walk through Cloatley Meadows was a pleasant day out and I was able to practise and improve my ID skills, with help from our experienced members. I've still got some work to do on the yellow daisies though! The site also had some interesting insect life and we saw numerous Chimney sweeper moths *Odezia atrata* and damselflies.

Alison Robinson





Saturday 17th June 2017

## Meadows at Mere

Leader: Penny Lee

It was a Saturday and all the car parks in the attractive small town of Mere were full. We should have anticipated this, and also, it not being a Sunday, that there would be plenty of room beside our meeting point at the church. It was beautifully hot and sunny, but became too hot for most of us to stay beyond lunchtime.

After being delayed in the churchyard (where we clocked 44 plant species), Penny led us southwards onto the low-lying meadows. Sadly, most of these had been mown, leaving short grass and large roly-poly haylage bales wrapped in black or fetching pale blue plastic. Further on, we came to the meadows designated as a County Wildlife Site and these had not yet been cut. A nice mixture of grasses here, including Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum*, and Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, with vast quantities of Corky-fruited Water-dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* throughout, but not the riches of broadleaved herbs we might have expected.



Returning to the town, we explored the back ways, including the streams, ponds and channels of Ashfield Water. A shady willow provided our lunch stop and some monster specimens of Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica* for Sharon to take to her sedge course the next day.

Just Penny and I continued on to Long Hill. This is a weird ridge stretching out from the town, with a castle on a tump at the town end. A bit like Corfe Castle but much less so. The tump had chalkland species, a pleasing example being Knapweed

Broomrape *Orobancha elatior*. This had puzzled a group of sponsored walkers who had started at Stourhead; we were pleased to explain.

A varied day: grassland, wet places, bits of woodland, chalk downland. We saw all the big fescue grasses – Tall, Giant and Meadow (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*, *giganteus* and *pratensis*) and a variety of other plants.

*Richard Aisbitt*





Sunday 2 July 2017

## Jones's Mill, Pewsey

Leaders: Paul Darby and Jane Brown

This site continues to be popular with the botany group, and this visit proved why.

There is always something new to see – this time it was the memorable sight of three red kites and a gull following a grass mower in an adjacent field, treating us to a close-up display of their flying skills. It must have been a delicatessen full of voles and field mice – we watched a gull dive down, scoop something, then swallow whatever it was in midflight.

And the plants? Plenty to enjoy, including the expected variety of sedges...including the less common Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata* and Flea Sedge *Carex pulicaris*... and then the horsetails. Close inspection of these involved checking whether the stem was hollow like a straw (Water Horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*), or had the requisite number of 'teeth' and ridges on the stem (this helps with identification of Marsh Horsetail *E. palustre*) and then of course there were the brilliant green swathes of the unmistakable Great Horsetail *E. telmateia*, creating a prehistoric atmosphere in the wet woodland (willow/alder carr).

Solid clumps of Greater Tussock Sedge *Carex paniculata* rose from the flatter, more open vegetation.

In the meadow where the volunteers brushcut and rake every year, we rescued a small toad from the dipwell – there was some discussion about the hydrology of the site; following a recent three year project.

The group scattered, bowed heads, eyes searching for whatever might be found.

The Bog Pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, for which the site is known, had spread greatly this year, and it was



Great Horsetail - Jane Brown

worth using a lens to appreciate its delicate pink-striped petals.

Some of the group enjoyed making the seeds pop off the Flea Sedge, just like the jumping insect.

However, no outbreak of scratching ensued.....

Heading back across the wooden bridge that crosses the juvenile Avon, we stopped to lean over the side rails, searching for the resident Signal Crayfish which often appears here, as well as the pleasure of watching, and listening to, the flow of the water....I don't recall whether we played Pooh

Sticks that day ... and I do remember that the weather was kind.

For those who don't know the area, the reserve is open all year, with each season bringing a different mood.

Jane Brown



Belties in the meadow - Jane Brown





Sharon in explaining mode



Welcome lunch shelter

## Fivehead Arable Fields SSSI

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

Leader: Sharon Pilkington

Twelve members tempted by the prospect of the special assemblage of arable weeds on this Somerset Wildlife Trust Reserve, designated as an Important Plant Area by Plantlife, met on Cathanger Lane by the reserve entrance. Sharon introduced the site which consists of three fields on heavy clay managed for arable weeds by sowing a non-commercial crop of winter wheat with a break crop on rotation. The site is arguably the most important arable weed site in the UK. The weather was not kind as the threatened rain materialised far sooner than forecast, but we were undeterred.



Broad-leaved Spurge

The first plants to draw attention to themselves were Bristly Ox-tongue *Helminthotheca echioides* and Broad-leaved Spurge *Euphorbia platyphyllos* with its warty fruits. The one plant of Spreading Hedge-parsley *Torilis arvensis* that we were so pleased to find on our Woodborough Hill visit in May, paled into insignificance given the abundance of this species at Fivehead, but that was, of course, very important as a Wiltshire record. Another important umbellifer in seed was soon spotted. Shepherd's Needle *Scandix pecten-veneris* was once a common cornfield weed and with its very distinctive long spiky fruits had many vernacular names. In Wiltshire it was known as Crow-pecks and in Somerset as Devil's Darning Needle. Gerard, quoted by Grigson in 'The Englishman's Flora', commented that after the flowers 'come uppe long seedes, very like unto pack needles, orderlie set one by another like the great teeth of a combe'. Although I had never seen it before, I knew immediately what it was! It does occasionally turn up on farmland in Wiltshire, but at Fivehead there were very substantial numbers of plants. We also saw the very beautiful seedheads of Corn Buttercup *Ranunculus arvensis* ornamented with very long spines. This plant has suffered a national decline, but the seeds are long-lived and it sometimes appears on sites in Wiltshire where it has not previously been recorded, often on heavy clay. We were able to confirm the presence of the rare Broad-fruited Corn-salad *Valerianella rimosa* from its mature fruits. Other rarities found included Slender Tare *Vicia parviflora* and Rye Brome *Bromus secalinus*. Amongst all the rare plants were a

number of species that we are pleased to find anywhere in Wiltshire such as Dwarf Spurge *Euphorbia exigua*, Sharp-leaved Fluellen *Kickxia elatine* and Round-leaved Fluellen *K. spuria*.

Some bushes at the edge of one of the fields provided some much needed cover from the inclement weather while we ate our lunch and afterwards we explored another of the fields, finding many of the same species including large populations of Shepherd's Needle. A badger had obligingly excavated a hole to expose the distinctive corm-like base of Onion Couch *Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*. Despite the weather it was a very enjoyable visit and well worth the long journey to reach it. Thanks very much to Sharon for sharing her expert knowledge of the site and its unusual and exciting flora.

Anne Appleyard



Broad-fruited Corn-salad



Sunday 6 August 2017

## Lord's Oak and Penn Common

Leaders: Pat Woodruffe and Dave Green

Sixteen people attended this field meeting and going by the prompt nature of everyone's arrival were gunning for a good day. Well we didn't have to look far as our first foray was just by the car park. My first stop was to look at a bright yellowy-green sedge, Common Yellow Sedge *Carex viridula* subsp. *oedocarpa* (*C. demissa*). Pale Butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica* although tiny flowered was a delight to see and photograph. By the time I looked up from this the party was well spread out; there were so many good things to look at. The area in general was covered with Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Tormential *Potentilla erecta* and White-beaked Sedge *Rhynchospora alba* with Marsh St John's Wort *Hypericum elodes* in the wet runs. A closer look within the wet areas also turned up *Drosera intermedia* and *D. rotundifolia*; Oblong-leaved and Round-leaved Sundews. The critical botanists meanwhile were conducting a masterclass in Spike Rushes with comparisons being made between Many-stalked Spike-rush *Eleocharis multicaulis* and Common Spike-rush *E. palustris*. Also of interest was Petty Whin *Genista anglica*. I admired the seed pods which seemed quite large for the size of seed inside, but the seeds are really worth looking at: shiny black and heart-shaped.

Our next stop was Penn Farm for our target species of the day Small Fleabane *Pulicaria vulgaris*. This was 'everywhere' on the lawn in front of



Small Fleabane



Chamomile

us so how can it be so scarce? What made it so good was that the grass was also covered in the white flowers of Chamomile *Chamaemelum nobile* whose scent wafted as we walked over it. Down at a ditch run we came across Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* looking like freshly emerging sown grass seed. No sporangia pills were seen at the base of the plants but one or two plants could be seen unfolding looking like their larger fern cousin's leaf 'croziers'. Whenever we come to the New Forest always look at the top broken edges of the ditches we're told as we may well find Allseed *Radiola linoides* and Chaffweed *Centunculus minimus*. So we did and we did!

After lunch we moved onto Furzley Common. A stop at some birch trees proves that you shouldn't be complacent. They were not just Silver Birch but had very obvious diamond shaped bases to the leaves and were in fact Iberian White Birch or *Betula celtiberica* (syn *B. pubescens* subsp. *pubescens*). The prettiest flower of the day had to go to Ivy-leaved Bellflower *Wahlenbergia hederacea*. Almost everyone took a photograph of this. There was a very striking bank full of it. The nodding steely-blue flowers and tiny ivy shaped leaves were truly exquisite. Nearby in a wet flush we had yet more Pale Butterwort but this time also joined by Lesser Bladderwort *Utricularia minor*, another small flower but



Ivy-leaved Bellflower



Marsh Clubmoss



Lesser Skullcap

attractive when viewed close up. Just before we left this site Marsh Clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata* was spotted and in fact several patches of this noteworthy plant was viewed and grid references taken for the records. Whilst the plant resides in Hampshire



Mark records *Betula celtiberica*



*Betula celtiberica*  
- twigs, leaves and catkins





*Tiny Pennyroyal*



*Ben gives the scale*

the area is included within VC8 South-Wilts which makes it good enough for me!

Our last quick stop was to Stock's Cross. Apparently we were to look for eight sheep eating mint?! Well, all I can say is when we got there the sheep realising their *faux pas* had run off but had left plenty of Pennyroyal *Mentha pulegium* for us to find and photograph.

I know I can speak for all attendees present when I say that we all had a thoroughly enjoyable outing. Our grateful thanks go to Pat and Dave.

**Martin Buckland**

## Botanical Recording in 2017

With the deadline of 2020 approaching for the BSBI Atlas Update, we are taking stock and looking at gaps in our coverage of the Wiltshire flora.

We store all our botanical records using a computer program called MapMate. Among other tricks, it can produce a distribution map that helps us to judge our progress. The map has a blob for each one kilometre square in the county with the blob size showing the number of species seen in that square. This lets us see where recording is complete and where it needs improving. The current map is shown on the next page.

We have two years to fill the gaps. Wiltshire can be split up into 43 ten by ten kilometre squares, known as hectads. Various members have taken on responsibility for one or more hectads. Each hectad contains 100 one-kilometre squares and recording each of these is a daunting task. Some hectad 'guardians' have done just this - look at the south of the county. Happily, we don't all have to reach this level of perfection, but just need to cover a representative sample.

We made big progress in 2017, partly because Sue Fitzpatrick is mobile again. She is a prolific recorder and has produced 16,500 records on her own and another 6,500 with other recorders. Overall, we made 59,000 records, with another 40,000 from the Devizes record centre waiting to come in. Consider that each of these records comes from spotting a plant, identifying it, noting it, and keying the data into a computer.

There is plenty of opportunity if you would like to take part in recording. If you are not confident of your identification skills, it is a great way of improving them, especially by going out with a group that includes an experienced botanist.

**Richard Aisbitt**

## Atlas Recording Days

We had two sessions devoted to recording for the BSBI 2020 Atlas Update, one in the south at Mere and the Deverills and one east of the Plain starting from Tidcombe. According to numbers, we split into groups of two or three or four and headed off to list all the plants in one or more under-recorded but potentially interesting kilometre squares.

As well as making for an interesting day, these visits challenged our skills and filled gaps we had identified on the distribution maps. Having a group gives extra pairs of eyes and means we don't miss much.

Sue Fitzpatrick has kindly written an account of her group's visit to the Upper Chute area.

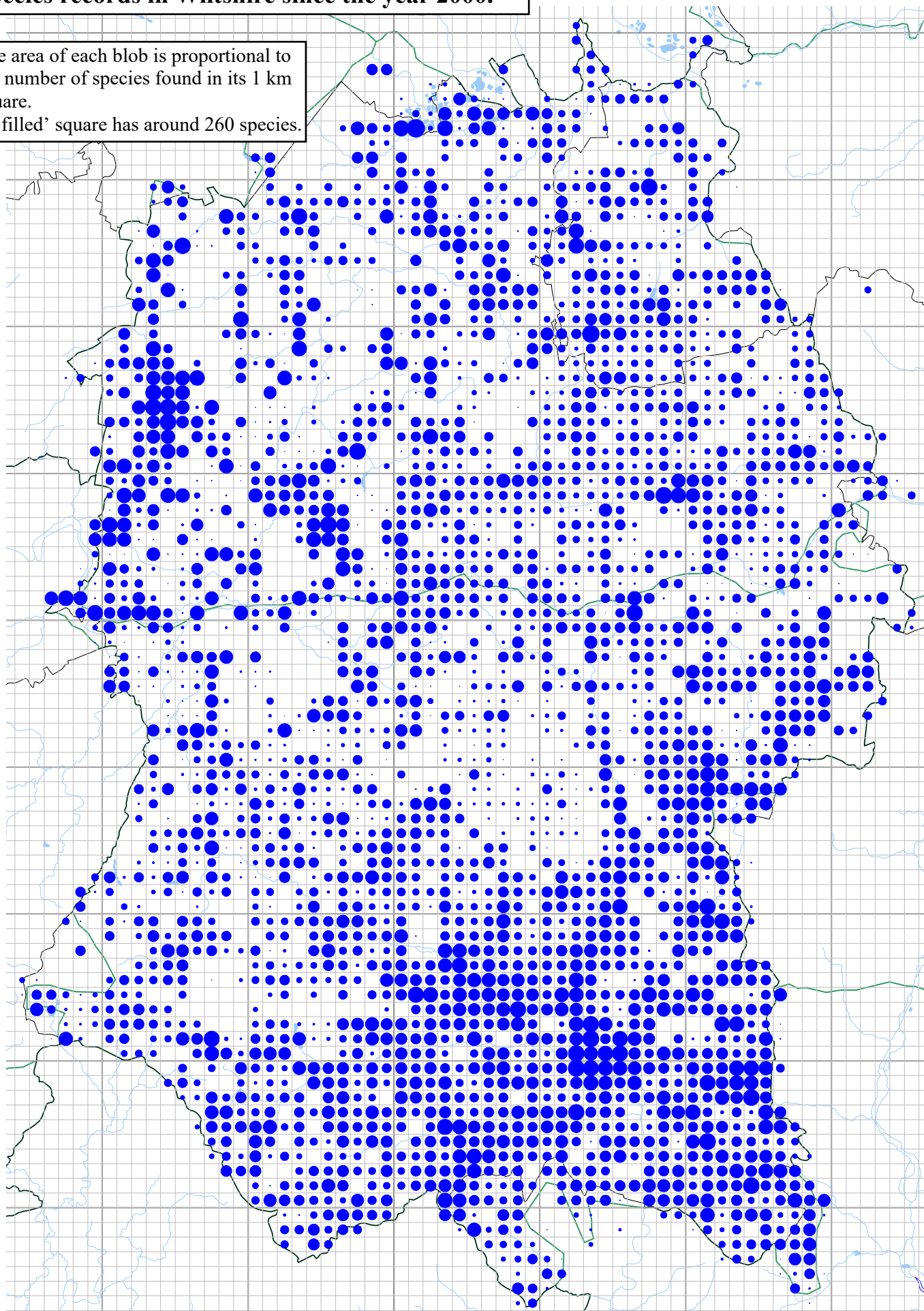
Our foursome – Anne Appleyard, Sue Fitzpatrick, Ness Williams and Pat Woodruffe, split into two pairs to tackle our allotted squares (and a bit more beside). Anne and Sue, while concentrating on SU2954, also looked at the southern part of SU2955 and ventured into SU2953, while Ness and Pat went through the northern part of SU2955 and a route through SU3055. Both groups had problems in finding paths, which looked good on the map but were nowhere visible on the ground! However, we made it (after some detours) and clocked up respectable totals of records – 396 and 207 respectively. Both groups had a variety of habitats including woodland; Pat & Ness found some chalk flora including knapweed broomrape *Orobanche elatior* and good numbers of pyramidal orchids *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, and arable weeds in farmland; whereas Anne & Sue had two shaded ponds which had little but waterlilies *Nymphaea alba*, fat duckweed *Lemna gibba*, and the highlight of the day, monkshood *Aconitum napellus* in two spots nearby. The village of Upper Chute contributed some garden escapes, to add to the variety. Altogether, it was an enjoyable day spent exploring a part of the county none of us knew.



## Species records in Wiltshire since the year 2000.

The area of each blob is proportional to the number of species found in its 1 km square.

A 'filled' square has around 260 species.





**Friday 26 May to Wednesday  
31 May 2017**

## **Trip to the Burren**

A bunch of Wiltshire botanists travelled to Lisdoonvarna in the west of Ireland to stay a few days at the Hydro Hotel, most of us going by courtesy of Ryanair and hire-cars from Knock Airport. We made the long journey in order to see the wonders of the Burren, a huge wild area of limestone with a very special collection of plants.

Rather than giving details of all our outings, we have gathered some comments from members to give a taste of the visit. I have decided to make these anonymous, but there may be some clues in the contents ...

*Richard Aisbitt*

Here are some thoughts from our members.

### **Some graded experiences:**

High: "I never appreciated how vast and how stunning the Burren was"

High: Good company to be with.

Low/High: "Always make notes. I lost my walking stick at Mullagh More but retraced my steps and found it using my plant records"

Good finds: "I had never seen Stone Bramble before so finding my own at Mullaghmore was very pleasing"

Very High: Seeing Father Ted's House.

### **Some more highs:**

- Ben's enthusiasm. He could scarcely wait for Martin to stop the car before leaping out at our first limestone pavement stop.
- Magnificent scenery seen at its best especially in the afternoons when the clouds cleared.
- Some lovely plants, most notably *Pinguicula grandiflora* (Large-flowered Butterwort) which I have seen many times in the Alps

but never as good as in the Burren.

We had both looked forward to our trip to the Burren, but not without a hint of anxiety. On our previous visit in 1981 we had been thrilled by the unique richness of the limestone pavement and the floral gems it concealed. Would it still be the same? We need not have worried. The Burren remains the most interesting and fascinating 'natural' site in the British Isles, not just for its flora but as a total wildlife habitat – and all to the accompaniment of a constant background of birdsong. Surely not another 36 years!

I had a tantalising glimpse of the Burren on a half day visit last year so was delighted when the WBS decided to visit it for their annual trip. It's a rare treat to wander over such an unusual and unexpected landscape with the group's combined knowledge finding specialities ranging from Irish Saxifrage to Leopard Orchid. However, for me the wonders also resided in familiar plants growing in extraordinary circumstances, such as a honeysuckle poking its head above the limestone grikes into the salt laden winds from the sea.

The Hydro Hotel was enormous for such a small town. However every morning three huge coaches would arrive and disgorge 50 to 60 people each. All of them were German. It emerged that there was a tie-in between the hotel owner and a travel company. It seems that each coach load stayed two nights so we, staying for five, almost counted as residents and the staff, none of whom was Irish, learnt our breakfast habits and so on

At every site we went to it was very well worthwhile just to stare at our surroundings - the curves of the landscapes, the rock forms, the general suite of flowers such as Burnet Rose and Bloody Cranesbill which were everywhere. Even the meadow close to the hotel, where the

Meadow Thistles were, had wonderful swoops of colour to stare at; purple, pink, yellow, white, blue. One would of course revert to the standard botanist's posture, slightly bent.

It seems a little corny to choose a *Dryas octopetala* (Mountain Avens) as one of the top stars of the trip, as its flower is fairly ordinary. Firstly there is the romance of its distribution: - this ancient arctic mountain plant flourishing in the soft warmth of Western Ireland. Then there is its cosy, humped habit of growth. The leaves are a wonder - darkly glossy above with neat scalloped edges but underneath a polar bear indumentum. All this neatness has a wild contrast in the fruiting head which is a fly-away unbrushed hair-do of pappuses with a flirty little twist to it.

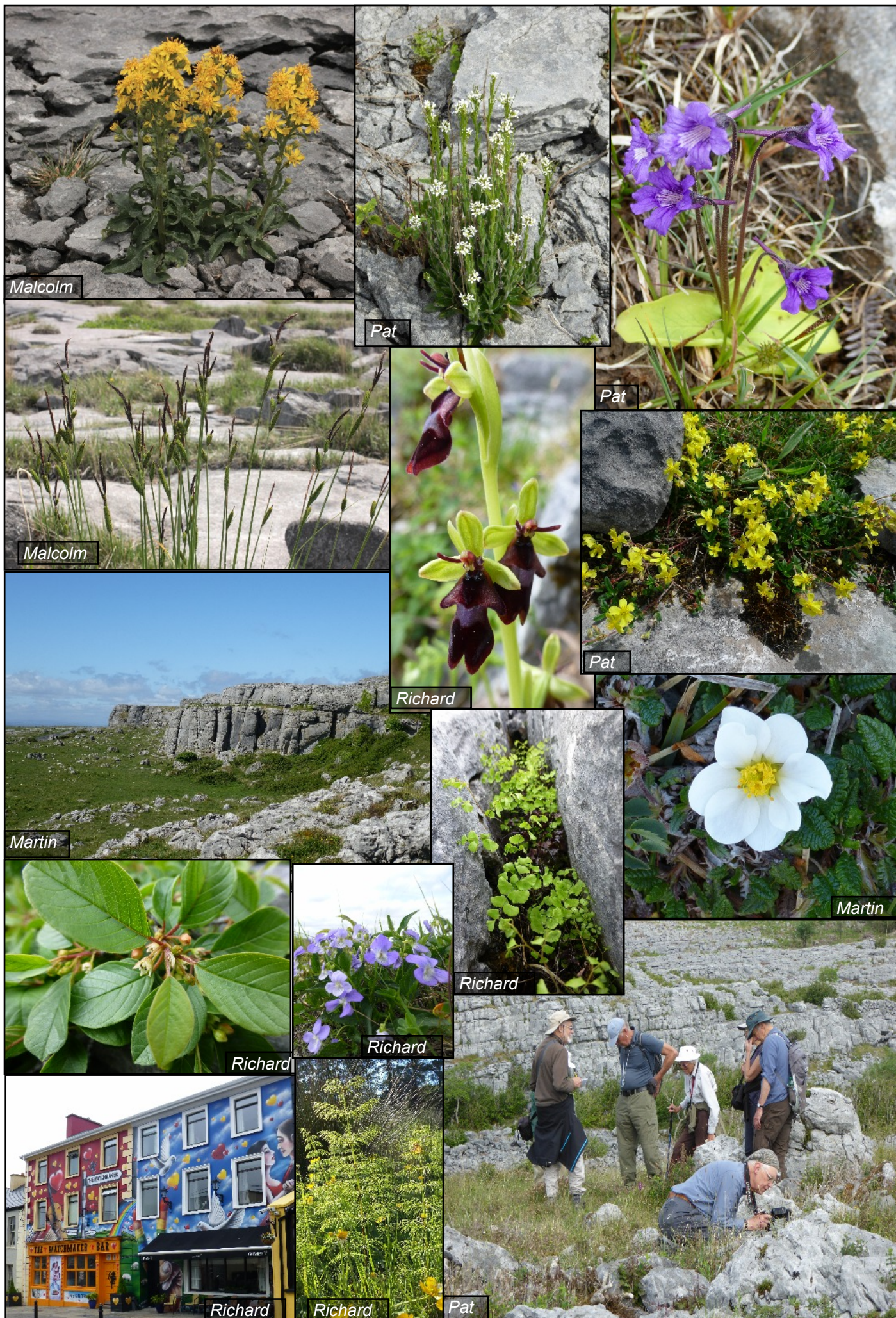
*Pinguicula grandiflora* was a good plant. Its flowers were indeed enormous and in their chosen wet sloping meadow they made quite a show. Distribution is so hard. Why was the plant so happy in that field but we never saw it anywhere else?

On Black Head, our last outing, there was yet another treat of a plant, *Helianthemum oelandicum* (Hoary Rock-rose). Superficially it is merely a smallish buttery *Helianthemum*. With the lens when can see that it has an absurdly kinked style the like of which I have never seen on any other plant.

There was a non-botanical curiosity near the hotel. Two springs, both gently dribbling as they had, apparently, for hundreds of years. One was stinky, sulphurous and yellow and the other was odourless and depositing a white magnesium salt. The two of them were only 30 cm apart... Very odd.

-----  
The following pages show a collection of photos from the Burren trip by a variety of members. I wonder if you can identify any of the plants?









Pat



Christine



Pat



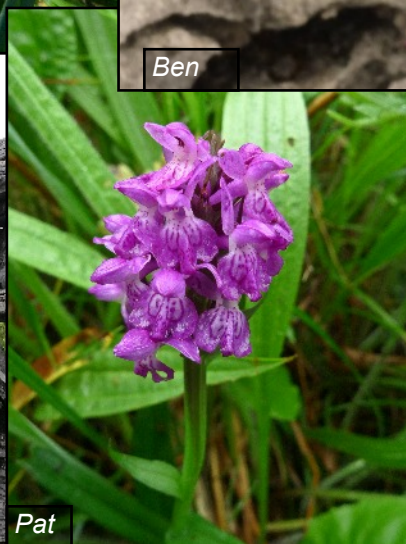
Ben



Baz



Baz



Pat



Ben



Neville



Baz



Neville



# The Conyza Fleabanes

There are four alien Fleabanes, members of the *Asteraceae* with masses of little flask shaped flowers with white-ish petals that hardly extend above the green phyllaries. They are not showy plants, but are interesting in that they are spreading in Wiltshire, particularly in towns. All originate from the Americas but their names often do not reflect this. The species are:

- Canadian Fleabane *Conyza canadensis*, not a recent introduction, being first recorded in 1690 in the 'London Area'. It was not noted in Wiltshire until 1932 (Miss P. Leake, near Rowde). It is widely scattered in Wiltshire and was well recorded (as *Erigeron canadensis*) by the Wiltshire Flora.
- Guernsey Fleabane *C. sumatrensis* from Peru, first seen in Wiltshire by Penny Theobald in Salisbury in 2008. We still have only 17 county records, mostly urban.
- Argentine Fleabane *C. bonariensis* from tropical America: its first county record was more recent, in March 2014, by Sue Fitzpatrick, again in Salisbury. We have only two county records so far.
- Bilbao Fleabane *C. floribunda* from South America, was not included in the keys in Stace's flora until the 2010 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Sharon Pilkington made our first record in 2014 in Warminster and we still have only seven county records.

The newer arrivals are probably under-recorded in Wiltshire. How do you recognise them? My interest was sparked by an article in BSBI News by Bob Leaney (2017), who has studied plants in his native Norfolk. He is somewhat dismissive of previous keys, which use features that vary from plant to plant like leaf and inflorescence shape, and others like yellow-green/grey-green that are hard to distinguish. He has picked out

features that he considers to be more reliable and built them into a key. This has long entries for each couplet; I present a simpler version based on just a few of his characters.

Necessary words:

- Capitulum – the whole composite flower head. Measurements are across the green leafy part before it opens to release seeds
- Phyllaries – the leaf-like bracts around the capitulum, positioned like the sepals of a simple flower

The Key – use on fresh material – the capitulum opens out soon after collecting

1. Capitulum with few or no hairs when viewed in silhouette (10x lens)----- 2  
Capitulum with too many hairs to count ----- 3
2. Phyllaries narrow, tapering to a very acute tip  
-----*Conyza canadensis*  
Phyllaries broad and strap-shaped, blunt-tipped  
-----*Conyza floribunda*
3. Capitulum 2.5 – 5 mm across (similar to *C. canadensis*)  
-----*Conyza sumatrensis*  
Capitulum 6-8 mm across (larger than *C. canadensis*) *Conyza bonariensis*

The shape of the inflorescence can be very variable, but *C. canadensis* is usually narrowly cylindrical (see diagram below). Bob Leaney suggests that any with a different shape *may* be one of the other species and should be examined.

*C. sumatrensis* is the only one he

found with a kite-shaped inflorescence and this may also be a good feature to prompt further examination.

The tubular disk florets (the inner ones) end in different numbers of triangular lobes; *C. canadensis* has four, but all the others have five. These are hard to see in the field, but squeezing the base of the capitulum spreads the florets and makes this easier.

Also look at Bob's illustrations, reproduced opposite (with permission). Bob's article gives yet more information to back up your ID.

Richard Aisbitt

Leaney, B. (2017) Common Problems with identification in *Conyza*: Norfolk experience. **BSBI News 135**, pp 7-17, April 2017

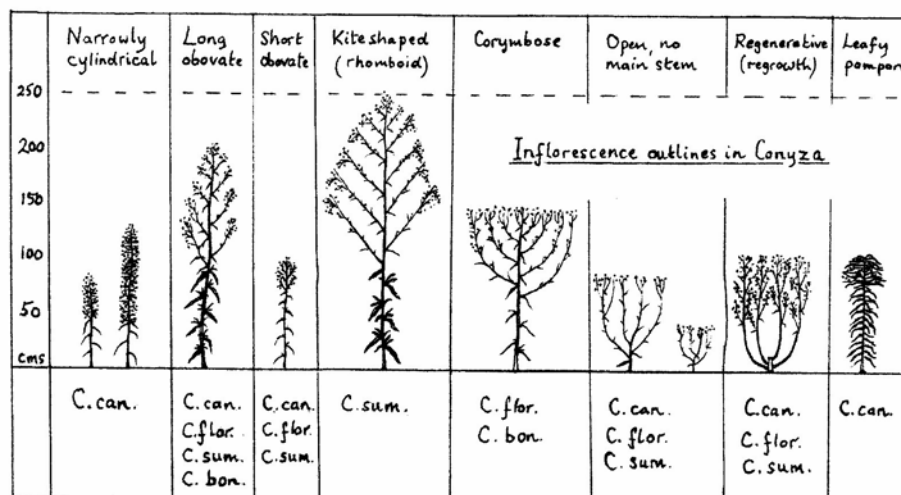


Fig. 3

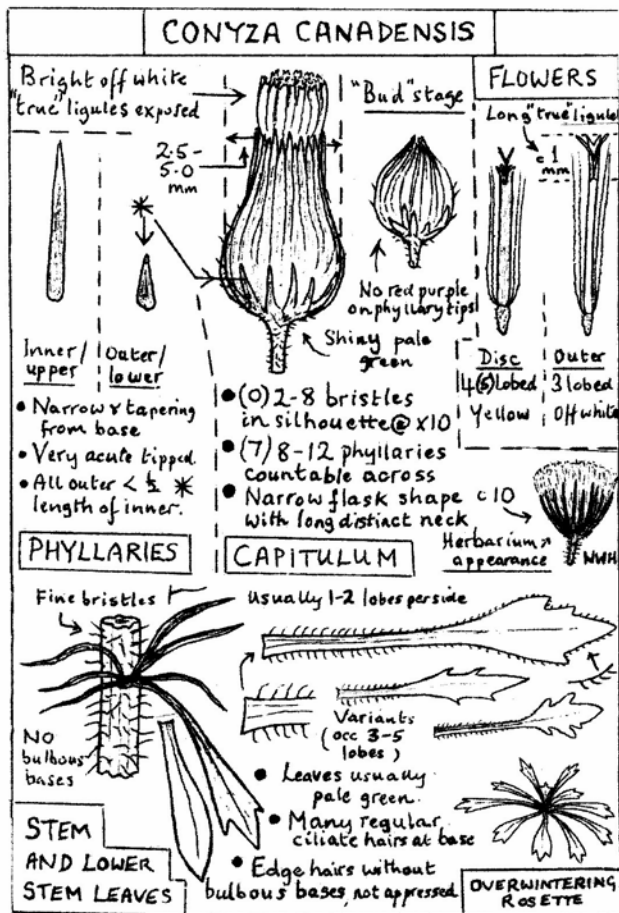


Fig 1a

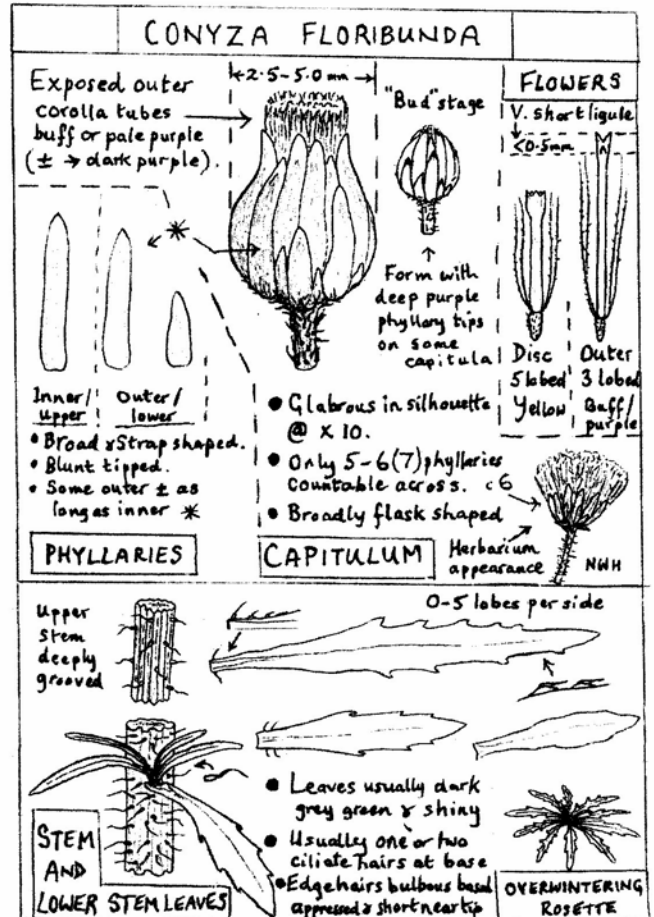


Fig 1b

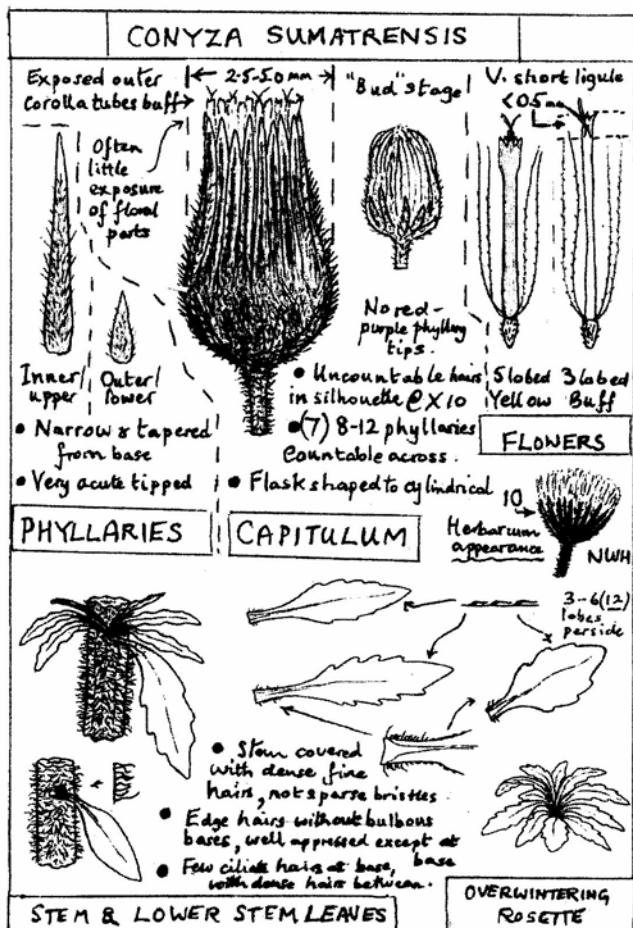


Fig 2a

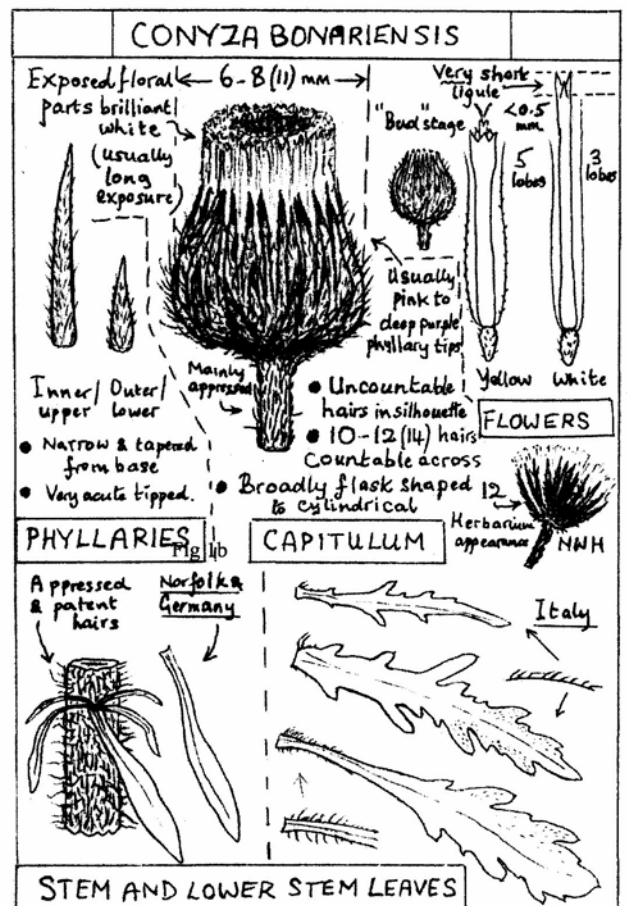


Fig 2b



# A Tribute to Tom Cairns

Ole Thomas Cairns was born on 8th June 1949 in Germany to his Norwegian mother and Northern Ireland-born father.

The family moved to Northern Ireland, then to Norfolk and later to Lower Swainswick, near Bath. It was in the local primary here that he gained his passionate love of nature and the countryside which stayed with him so strongly all his life.

After school he took a BSc course at Bath, and became involved in conservation whilst working for the Bath Preservation Trust, saving a row of Georgian workers' cottages from demolition by the less than enthusiastic City Council.

Return visits to Norway furthered his love of nature and he would go for solo walks out into the wild.

He took one of the first Master's degrees in conservation and commuted from his house in Widcombe to Westminster where he advised the Government on the Wildlife and Countryside Act, a major piece of legislation. Other positions included project managing the Albert Dock in Liverpool whilst working for the Civic Trust.

Moving to Devizes he took up a post with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, an organisation with which he became involved to the end, and where he made so many good friends.

He also worked for the Grazing Advisory Partnership based in Brinkworth, Wiltshire, organising a body including the Ministry of Defence, National Trust and Rare Breeds Survival Trust, the aim of which being the use of cattle native to the specific areas involved, to maintain the fragile ecosystem which was at risk from invasive or over-dominant species such as bracken. This is now standard practice.

In 2012, having taken up a new job in Lincolnshire, managing schemes to maintain salt marshes using native breeds, he collapsed at work and was rushed to hospital. Tests revealed that he had suffered a heart attack having contracted a disease of the heart muscle. The condition was so serious that he had to retire from work and return to his beloved Devizes. He fully recovered and made a point of enjoying life to the full.

In 2015, he was seriously injured in a road traffic accident and taken to Southmead Hospital, Bristol, where it was feared he would lose his leg. In a major operation the leg was saved.

Whilst recovering he suffered a severe flu-like illness; polymyalgia was diagnosed. Some months later tests showed that he had cancer, the illness from which he finally succumbed.

All the while Tom maintained his social life and was a great inspiration to friends and colleagues, who will continue to have happy memories of Tom.

Here are two such memories...

*From Dave Green*

In February 1978, Tom invited my heavily pregnant wife Ali and me to have a curry at his third-floor flat in Lansdown, Bath. We had known Tom by this time a couple years, and I knew he had photographed many flower species. Tom intended, after a leisurely meal, to show us slides of some of his flower pictures. However, as we ate, Ali was getting contractions, but didn't say anything at the time, or when Tom and I got engrossed in the slideshow. Eventually she mentioned that contractions were coming at three-minute intervals, and perhaps we ought to go off to the hospital. This created a dilemma for Tom and me, because we were just getting to the slides of the frog orchid, which at that time I had never seen. Ali was insistent that we HAD to go, so Tom helpfully rattled through the slides at speed so that I could get a view of the plant before helping Ali shuffle down six flights of stairs. All went well and the following day the first visitor to the side of Ali's bed was Tom with a bunch of flowers.

I have below included a photo that Tom took of the Ghost Orchid in 1978/9, one of the last times it was seen in Britain, my memory is of waiting by the car until Tom ran out of film taking pictures whilst laid prone on the floor of Beech woodland, "somewhere in Southern England".

*From Paul Darby*

Tom had more jobs at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust than anyone else that I can remember, often re-inventing himself to fit the job - another of Tom's skills. He therefore had more 'leaving dos' than anyone else, with gifts of a new pullover on each occasion, as I recall - he was famous for his knitwear !

Tom's wide knowledge of natural history was astounding. We would often be talking on a particular subject, when Tom would go off at a tangent about some related detail





*Tom and Greater Tussock Sedge*

which I knew nothing about. It was always interesting and often humorous.

Tom had a vast collection of classic films on VHS, 'I filled a room with those' being a typical comment. He also had a complete (as far as I know) collection of first editions of the New Naturalists books. It was obvious that these gave him pleasure.

He was celebrated for his karaoke performances at parties (any excuse for a party was good enough for Tom, he knew how to enjoy himself!) His musical tastes were indeed wide and varied; many of the CDs I copied for him would be summarised by him as 'really great, never heard them before'.

His sense of humour and fun go without saying. He often blamed me for influencing his sense of humour. He'd laugh at terrible jokes and make you feel a better person!

There are rumours of Tom's love of cider... I never saw this, as whenever I had a drink (or two) with him, it was beer - real ale, of course. When we both lived in Devizes, we would regularly meet up in The Southgate, sit in the corner like two old codgers (which we were), and talk about anything and everything and put the world to rights. Tom always seemed to have his umbrella, whatever the weather!



*Tom's Ghost Orchid*



# Protected Road Verges

- in need of a monitor

Wiltshire has around 50 roadside verges which are protected because they are special in some way or other, most often for botanical interest. These verges are labelled with marker posts and are not included in the regular highways mowing regime, but are given special management. This will often be a late cut to allow plants to set seed.

Each one has a volunteer monitor who keeps an eye the verge and sends a report to the county council every year.

Well, that's not quite true: some of the verges are orphans in need of a monitor. This person would visit the verge occasionally and keep a watch for changes or threats to its special features. If

you would like to take on a verge, you would get help in recognising the key plants if you needed it.

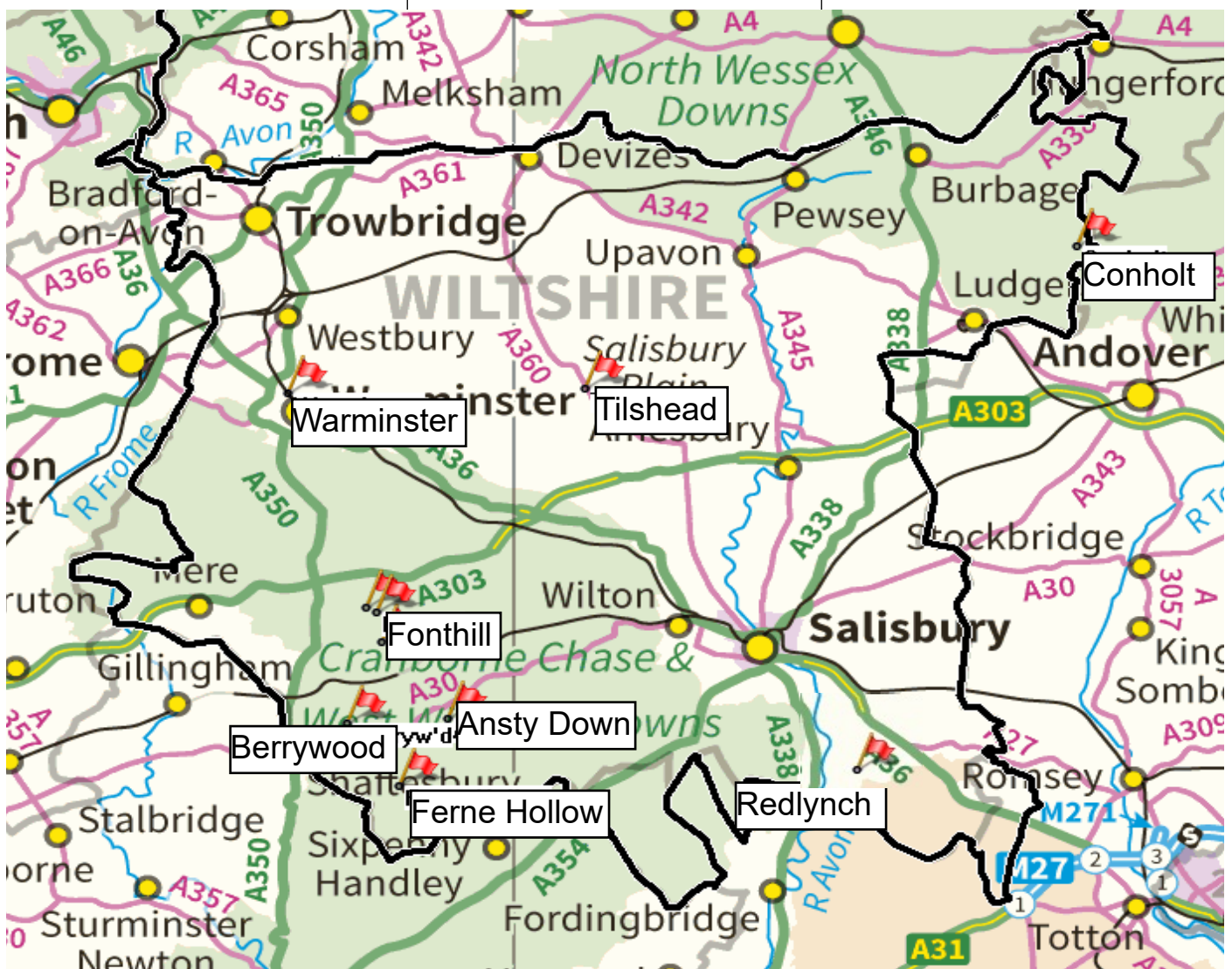
All the orphan verges happen to be in south Wiltshire, and are shown on the map. They are:

- **Ferne Hollow**, near A30 Shaftesbury (chalk grassland and some woodland) – ST935509
- **Conholt**, near Upper Chute north of Andover (chalk grassland) – SU325554
- **Fonthill**, (3 verges) near Hindon (hellebores, Dusky Cranesbill and orchids) – ST922320, ST925301, ST916323
- **Ansty Down**, off A30 nr Tisbury (chalk downland flora) – ST963252

- **Tilshead**, A360 north of Salisbury (chalk downland flora) – SU042463
- **Warminster**, ex-A350 into north Warminster (various orchids and other chalk downland species) – ST871460
- **Redlynch**, north of the village on a by-road turning into a track. Asarabacca - SU198219

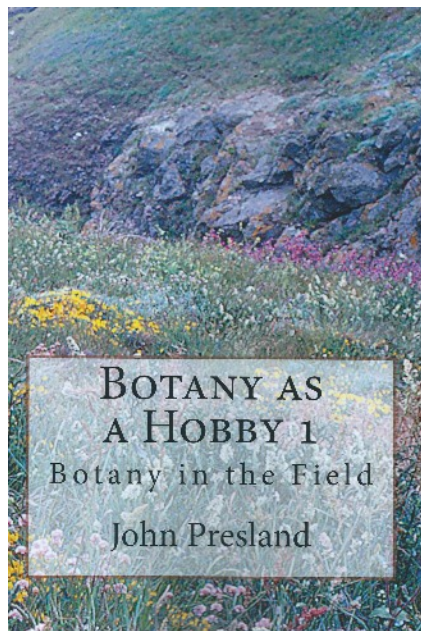
In addition, **Berrywood Lane Donhead St Mary** off A30 (combination of flora inc. hard fern) – ST905249 – already has a monitor, but is looking for a “Monitoring buddy”

If you are interested, contact Emma Glover at Wiltshire Council ([Emma.Glover@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Glover@wiltshire.gov.uk), 01225 718478) or consult existing monitors Pat Woodruffe or Sue Fitzpatrick (details on the Committee list).





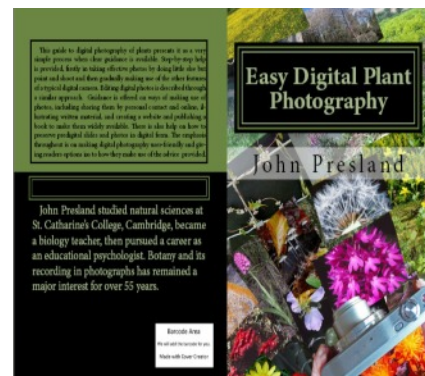
## Two new books by John Presland



### **Botany as a Hobby 1: Botany in the field - by John Presland**

This book gives a picture of field botany in all its aspects, with the aims of interesting and informing anyone drawn to the subject. In particular, it is hoped to stimulate those with an initial or passing interest to become more involved. For already confirmed botanists, it is a sharing of botanical experiences in the field. It covers a variety of approaches to discovering plants, algae and fungi in a range of settings. Detailed accounts are given of orchids, what can be seen on family holidays, botanical delights of cultural sites, organised excursions to explore botany in mountains, and New Zealand as an example of a different flora from our own. Botanical gardens are included because they support and display field botany; and photography because it is a way of recording plants and remembering field experiences. Finally, examples of the humour that can arise from this kind of activity are described. The book is the first of a series which will explore botany wherever it impinges on our lives.

### **Easy Digital Plant Photography - by John Presland**



This guide to digital photography of plants presents it as a very simple process when clear guidance is available. Step-by-step help is provided, firstly in taking effective photos by doing little else but point and shoot and then gradually making use of the other features of a typical digital camera. Editing digital photos is described through a similar approach. Guidance is offered on ways of making use of photos, including sharing them by personal contact and online, illustrating written material, and creating a website and publishing a book to make them widely available. There is also help on how to preserve predigital slides and photos in digital form. The emphasis throughout is on making digital photography user-friendly and giving readers options as to how they make use of what is provided.

#### **About the author**

John Presland studied natural sciences at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, became a biology teacher, then pursued a career as an educational psychologist. Botany and its recording in photographs has remained a major interest for over 55 years.



# The Orchid Hunter

- Leif Bersweden

In the summer after leaving school, a young botanist sets out to fulfil a childhood dream – to find every species of orchid native to the British Isles... He has just a few months to complete his quest – no one has ever done it before – and it will require ingenuity, stamina and a large dose of luck.

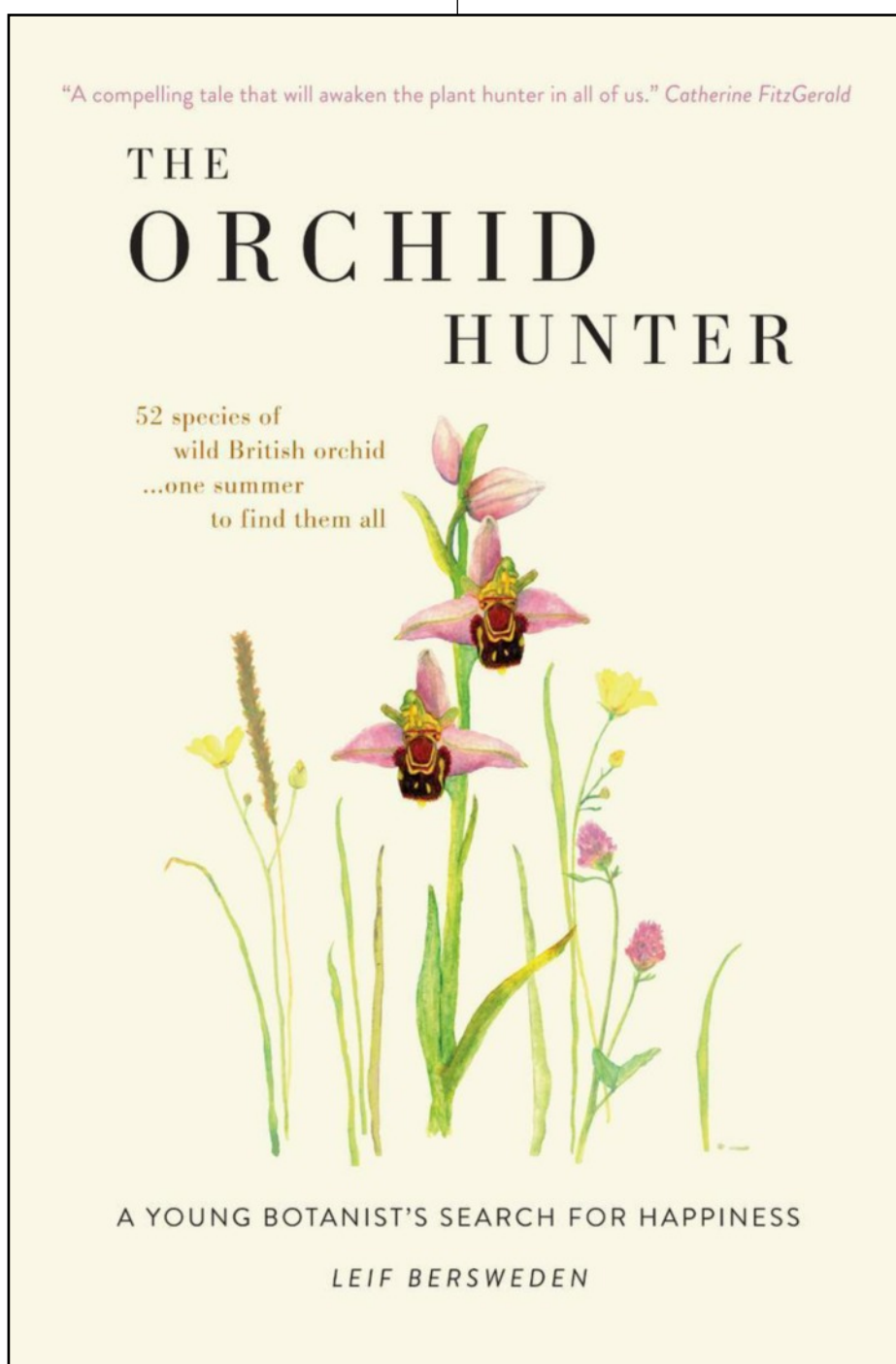
Like *Two Owls at Eton* and *My Family and Other Animals*, this is a charming, witty account of a precocious adolescent's obsession with the natural world.

As he battles the vagaries of the British climate in his clapped-out van, feverishly chasing each emerging bloom, Leif Bersweden takes the reader on a remarkable botanical journey. This study of the 52 native species is a fantastic gateway into the compendious world of orchids – one that will open your eyes to the rare hidden delights to be found on hilltops and riverbanks, in woodland, marsh and field.

- The text and illustration on this page is taken from the Amazon website

Leif Bersweden was born in 1994 and grew up as a botanist in rural Wiltshire [he is a one-time member of the Wiltshire Botanical Society]. He graduated with a degree in Biology from Oxford and is currently a PhD student at Kew Gardens.

Leif is a published author and an accomplished botanical tutor, running plant identification training courses for The Species Recovery Trust. In a world where an interest in botany is becoming increasingly rare, he wants to help put plants back on the map and is endeavoring to do this through his teaching, research and publications.





# Plant Records 2016

## Apple-of-Peru (*Nicandra physalodes*)



## Few-flowered Garlic (*Allium paradoxum*)



## Explanatory notes

- The following is a selection from WBS records received in 2016. For each species, initials of recorders and names of sites and nearby towns and villages are not repeated. Assume it's the same one until a new one appears.
- Only those new to their 10 km square are included. This is relative to the period since the flora mapping in the 1980s and 1990s for the 1993 Wiltshire Flora and recorded there.
- Where a record is also a 1st county or vice-county record, this is stated at the end of the list of records for the species i.e. it doesn't say which specific record it is. An unqualified statement means that it is the first record ever, as far as is known. Where the word "recent" is inserted, it means that it is the first since the flora mapping began, but had been recorded before this period.
- Where a recording square is only partly in Wiltshire, any comment on record status applies only to the part within Wiltshire.
- Names are those in the 3rd edition of *New Flora of the British Isles* (Clive Stace 2010).

## Recorders

AA - Anne Appleyard  
AM - Ailsa McKee  
BCG - Bulford Conservation Group  
BD - B Davis  
BHa - B Harvey  
CSh - C Shellswell  
DG - David Green  
EM - Ellen McDouall  
GGo - Graham Goodfellow  
HCr - H Crouch  
JBE - J Bennett  
JBr - Jane Brown  
JRM - John Moon  
JWi - J Winder  
KH - K Hand  
MBu - Martin Buckland  
NA - N Adams  
PD - Paul Darby  
PLe - Penny Lee  
PMW - Pat Woodruffe  
PSk - Paul Skelton  
RAi - Richard Aisbitt  
RDu - Rosemary Duckett  
SF i - Sue Fitzpatrick  
SJJ - S J Jackson  
SPi - Sharon Pilkington  
SS - Simon Smart  
TC - Tom Cairns  
U3AK - U3A Kennet Flora and Fauna Group  
WBS - Wiltshire Botanical Society



## Abbreviations

SPTA - Salisbury Plain Training Area

CCDA - Cross Country Driver Training Area

NNR - National Nature Reserve

WWT - Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest

## Vc7

**Alchemilla mollis; Garden Lady's-mantle;** RAi; Axford; tracksides.

**Allium paradoxum; Few-flowered Garlic;** RAi; Mildenhall; Thicket Copse; wood, bridleway and road.

**Allium triquetrum; Three-cornered Garlic;** TC/DG; Roundway; Home Covert; single plant in wild garden.

**Anisantha diandra; Great Brome;** RAi; Aldbourne; Sugar Hill; edge of rape field, frequent; TC/DG;

Bromham; arable fields, many 100s; Corsham; arable fields, 100+ plants; DG; Bromham; a few; 1st vice-county record.

**Anisantha tectorum; Drooping Brome;** TC/DG; Westbrook; arable field; 1st county record.

**Anthemis austriaca; Austrian Chamomile;** DG; Yatton Keynell; 4 plants in pavement cracks; 4 plants, birdseed presumably, along the base of a wall; South Wraxall; 50+ plants; 1st county records.

**Antirrhinum majus; Snapdragon;** DG; Yatton Keynell.

**Arum italicum; Italian Lords-and-Ladies;** RAi; Ramsbury; Oldfield Copse; trackside dumping in woodland; TC; Sells Green; Kennet and Avon Canal; naturalised escape; DG; Yatton Keynell; Colerne; hedge bank.

**Aster x salignus; Michaelmas Daisy (A. lanceolatus x novi-belgii);** MBu; Royal Wootton Bassett, many on two areas of roadside verge.

**Brachypodium rupestre; Tor-grass;** RAi/U3AK; Heddington; Oliver's Castle; ramparts and grassy slopes; 1st county record.

**Campanula portenschlagiana; Adria Bellflower;** DG; Colerne; village; weed on walls.

**Campanula poscharskyana; Trailing Bellflower;** DG; Colerne; village; weed on walls; RAi; Cricklade; village; wall-pavement angle.

**Carex divulsa subsp. leersii; Many-leaved Sedge;** RAi; Aldbourne; Sound Bottom and Sound Copse; several dense clumps by grassy track and in woodland; Bottom Coppice; trackside; Chilton Foliat; Littlecote Park; damp pasture and tracksides; Great Coppice; dense tufts beside track.

**Carex paniculata; Greater Tussock-sedge;** DG; Semington; Hiperton Marsh.

**Carex strigosa; Thin-spiked Wood-sedge;** DG; Roundway; Home Covert; large numbers.

**Ceratophyllum demersum; Rigid Hornwort;** DG; Broughton Gifford; Monkton Farm; Corsham; Westwells.

**Chaenomeles japonica; Japanese Quince;** WBS; Roundway; Roundway Hill and Oliver's Castle; established garden throw-out; 1st county record.

**Chenopodium ficifolium; Fig-leaved Goosefoot;** PLe/MBu; Compton Bassett; Starve Knoll & Compton Hill; MBu; Royal Wootton Bassett; Vastern; Dunnington Farm.

**Cicerbita macrophylla; Common Blue-sow-thistle;** DG; Beanacre; lane sides, several 100 rosettes.

**Cichorium intybus; Chicory;** MBu/SPi; Kemble.

**Claytonia perfoliata; Springbeauty;** PD; Pewsey; 3 in polytunnel in school grounds; 1st county record.

**Cochlearia danica; Danish Scurvygrass;** MBu; Minety; road island.

**Conyza floribunda; Bilbao's Fleabane;** MBu/SPi; Kemble; station car park; DG; Corsham; Westwells; RAi; Swindon; Liden; roadsides, 1st vice-county records.

**Cotoneaster bullatus; Hollyberry Cotoneaster;** DG; Ashley and Middlehill; 1 bush at lane side.

**Cotoneaster horizontalis; Wall Cotoneaster;** DG; Colerne; wall tops.

**Cotoneaster microphyllus; Small-leaved Cotoneaster;** DG; Corsham; Westwells; several; Rudloe; Rudloe Manor; spoilheap; recent 1st county record.

**Cyperus longus; Galingale;** RAi; Swindon; Liden; lagoon edge, a few plants.

**Datura stramonium; Thorn-apple;** MBu/SPi; Kemble; one in maize crop.

**Dryopteris affinis; Scaly Male-fern;** RAi; Ramsbury; Oaken coppice; around 10 plants; Southern Wood; White's Hill; one in woodland; Love's Copse; roadside and track verges; Love's Lane; around 10 plants; Oldfield Copse; Old Park wood; Pentico Wood; 2; Ogbourne St George; Wilding's Copse.

**Epilobium roseum; Pale Willowherb;** HCt/DG; Ford; 1 by streamside.

**Epipactis helleborine; Broad-leaved Helleborine;** RAi/KH; Oaksey; Oaksey Wood; 2 at edge of track.

**Foeniculum vulgare; Fennel;** DG; North Wraxall.

**Galium uliginosum; Fen Bedstraw;** RAi; Goatacre; wet slope.

**Geranium pusillum; Small-flowered Crane's-bill;** MBu; Devizes; Calcote Farm.

**Geranium rotundifolium; Round-leaved Crane's-bill;** MBu; Royal Wootton Bassett; Whitehill Industrial Estate.

**Geranium x oxonianum; Druce's Crane's-bill;** DG; Bradford-on-Avon; Great Cumberwell landfill site.

**Glebionis segetum; Corn Marigold;** DG; Yatton Keynell; 1 in pavement crack.

**Glyceria notata; Plicate Sweet-grass;** RAi; Goatacre; wet flush.

**Glyceria x pedicellata; G. fluitans x notata;** DG; Whaddon.

**Hedera algeriensis; Algerian Ivy;** RAi; Swindon; Old Town Railway Path; garden escape.

**Hedera hibernica; Atlantic Ivy;** MBu/SPi; Kemble; ground-cover in a copse; Kemble; dominant across much of woodland floor; 1st vice-county record.

**Helleborus foetidus; Stinking Hellebore;** MBu; Royal Wootton Bassett; Dunnington Farm; grass bank.



**Hieracium umbellatum**; Umbellate Hawkweed; MBu; Brinkworth; Hooker's Gate Farm; dumped stony waste; recent 1st county record.

**Hypopitys monotropa**; Yellow Bird's-nest; HCr/DG; Ford; 3 in plantation.

**Isolepis setacea**; Bristle Club-rush; DG; Monkton Combe; Dundas Aqueduct; wet grassland.

**Juncus effusus** var. **subglomeratus**; Slender Rush; RAI; Hungerford; Freeman's Marsh.

**Juncus tenuis**; Slender Rush; RAI; Lockeridge; West Woods; track.

**Kickxia spuria**; Round-leaved Fluellen; MBu; side of newly constructed road; MBu/RAi/AA/PMW; Royal Wootton Bassett; on newly sown roadside bank, sometimes in hundreds; AA/PMW; Hilmarton.

**Lactuca virosa**; Great Lettuce; DG; North Wraxall; 3-4 on laneside, two locations.

**Lepidium campestre**; Field Pepperwort; MBu; Royal Wootton Bassett; Dunnington Farm and elsewhere; frequent at side of newly constructed road.

**Lobularia maritima**; Sweet Alison; MBu; Royal Wootton Bassett; Vastern; garden escape at edge of footpath.

**Lysichiton americanus**; American Skunk-cabbage; GGo; Minety; roadside ditch; TC/DG; Roundway; Home Covert; 7 plants in wild garden.

**Malus pumila**; Apple; SPi; Oaksey; Lower Moor Farm.

**Malva neglecta**; Dwarf Mallow; RAI; Chilton Foliat; village; flower bed.

**Meconopsis cambrica**; Welsh Poppy; RAI; Chiseledon; field gateway.

**Medicago arabica**; Spotted Medick; MBu; Royal Wootton Bassett; Whitehill Industrial Estate.

**Medicago sativa**; Lucerne; MBu/SPi; Kemble.

**Melissa officinalis**; Balm; MBu; Tockenham; Tockenham Corner; garden throw-out on road verge.

**Mentha pulegium**; Pennyroyal; RAI; Swindon; Liden; locally abundant on mown grassy slope beside lagoon; recent 1st vice-county record.

**Mentha spicata**; Spear Mint; DG/BHa; Lyneham; The Strings, field and footpaths.

**Mentha x villosa** var. **alopecuroides**; Apple-mint; DG; Colerne; large colony beside track.

**Miscanthus sinensis**; Chinese Silver-grass; DG; Bradford-on-Avon; Great Cumberwell landfill site; sizeable clump; 1st county record.

**Miscanthus x giganteus**; Giant Silver-grass (**M. sinensis x sacchariflorus**); DG; Corsham; Westwells; crop relic; 1st county record.

**Myrrhis odorata**; Sweet Cicely; AA/PMW; Hilmarton; escape; RAI/KH; Oaksey; Oaksey Wood; one near edge of wood.

**Nectaroscordum siculum** subsp. **bulgaricum**; DG; South Wraxall; 3 on Greenway; 1st county record.

**Neottia nidus-avis**; Bird's-nest Orchid; RAI; Ludgershall; Great Coppice; 13 spikes under hazel.

**Nonea lutea**; Yellow Nonea; MBu; Brinkworth; 2 against wall outside Brinkworth Church; 1st county record.

**Oxalis corniculata**; Procumbent Yellow-sorrel; MBu/SPi; Kemble; station; DG; Yatton Keynell.

**Oxalis stricta**; Upright Yellow-sorrel; MBu; Devizes; base of house wall.

**Panicum capillare**; Witch-grass; DG; Ashley; 30+ plants in maize field; TC/DG; Lacock; maize field, many thousands; recent 1st vice-county record.

**Papaver somniferum**; Opium Poppy; MBu/SPi; Kemble.

**Phalaris aquatica**; Bulbous Canary-grass; DG; Corsham; Collett's Bottom Woods; relic of Pheasant crop; HCr/DG; Slaughterford; Weavert; large population along field edge.

**Pilosella aurantiaca**; Fox-and-cubs; AA/PMW; Hilmarton; RAI/KH; Oaksey; village; 2 locations; MBu; Compton Bassett; roadside verge.

**Platanthera bifolia**; Lesser Butterfly-orchid; GGo; Slaughterford; Honeybrook Farm; 1 plant.

**Polygonum rurivagum**; Cornfield Knotgrass; DG; Box; Fogleigh House; arable land.

**Polypogon monspeliensis**; Annual Beard-grass; DG; Great Cumberwell landfill site; 150 spikes plus seedlings; Westwells; 1 plant.

**Polypogon viridis**; Water Bent; TC/DG; Bromham; many 100s of plants along track.

**Polystichum aculeatum**; Hard Shield-fern; RAI; Axford; many plants on stream banks.

**Potamogeton crispus**; Curled Pondweed; DG; Rudloe; Widdenham Farm.

**Prunus cerasifera**; Cherry Plum; DG; Tidworth; South of Station Road; naturalised in planted hedge.

**Prunus domestica** subsp. **insititia**; Damson/Bullace; PLe/MBu; Compton Bassett; Starve Knoll and Compton Hill; 1st vice-county record.

**Puccinellia distans**; Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass; SPi; South Marston; Chippenham; roundabout.

**Pulmonaria officinalis**; Lungwort; RAI; Chilton Foliat; Littlecote; chalk pit.

**Ranunculus aquatilis**; Common Water-crowfoot; TC/DG; Lacock; River Avon.

**Rosa sherardii**; Sherard's Downy-rose; DG; South Wraxall; one in a recently planted hedgeline.

**Rosa x scabriuscula**; Rosa canina x tomentosa; DG; Corsham; Westwells.

**Rubus tricolor**; Chinese Bramble; RAI; Hungerford; Charnham Park; industrial estate; 1st county record.

**Salix babylonica**; Weeping Willow; RAI; Hungerford; 1st county record.

**Salix x reichardtii**; **S. caprea x cinerea**; DG; Box; Fogleigh House; 1 bush in hedgerow; Biddestone; Slaughterford Road, 2 bushes; Corsham; Corsham Park; edge of lake; RAI; Hungerford; Charnham Park; industrial estate.

**Salix x smithiana**; **S. viminalis x caprea**; DG/BHa; Lyneham; by sewage works, several.

**Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani**; Grey Club-rush; RAI; Ramsbury; near lake.

**Securigera varia**; Crown Vetch; DG; Bradford-on-Avon; Great Cumberwell landfill site; very large population over a 30m square.

**Sedum rupestre**; Reflexed Stonecrop; MBu; Devizes; Hopton Industrial Estate; footpath edge.

**Sedum spurium; Caucasian-stonecrop; DG; North Wraxall; small patch on dumped material by roadside.**  
**Sedum stoloniferum; Lesser Caucasian-stonecrop; DG; Corsham; Westwells; 2 sq. m. on tarmac; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.**  
**Senecio viscosus; Sticky Groundsel; MBu/SPi; Kemble; station.**  
**Setaria viridis; Green Bristle-grass; DG; Hilperton Marsh; 40+ along fence; Ashley; one in maize field.**  
**Smyrnium olusatrum; Alexanders; DG; Monkton Farleigh; graveyard.**  
**Solanum lycopersicum; Tomato; MBu/SPi; Kemble; station.**  
**Solidago gigantea; Early Goldenrod; RAI/KH; Oaksey; churchyard and field footpaths.**  
**Sparganium emersum; Unbranched Bur-reed; HCr/DG; Ford.**  
**Spartium junceum; Spanish Broom; DG; Bradford-on-Avon; Great Cumberwell landfill site; 1 plant, 3m high; 1st county record.**  
**Symphoricarpos x chenaultii; Pink Snowberry; DG; Beanacre; Beanacre Manor; planted in woodland edge and spreading.**  
**Symphytum grandiflorum; Creeping Comfrey; RAI; Ramsbury; Oldfield Copse; dumped in woodland; village; roadside ditch.**  
**Symphytum orientale; White Comfrey; DG; Colerne; along hedge bank 30+ m; Bradford-on-Avon; Great Cumberwell.**  
**Tellima grandiflora; Fringecups; TC/DG; Roundway; Home Covert; wild garden by stream.**  
**Trachystemon orientalis; Abraham-Isaac-Jacob; DG; Ashley and Middlehill; CT/DG; Roundway; Home Covert; wild garden near stream; 1st vice-county record.**  
**Trifolium hybridum; Alsike Clover; DG/BHa; Lyneham; The Strings, field and footpaths; MBu; Broad Town.**  
**Trifolium micranthum; Slender Trefoil; RAI; Chilton Foliat; churchyard lawn.**  
**Ulmus minor; Small-leaved Elm; DG; Slaughterford; Honeybrook Farm; small copse.**  
**Veronica crista-galli; DG; North Wraxall; Doncombe valley; dumped soil by footpath, three locations, two single plants and a large population; 1st county record.**  
**Veronica x lackschewitzii; RAI/U3AK; Hungerford; Charnham Park and Freeman's Marsh; riverbank.**  
**Vulpia bromoides; Squirreltail Fescue; MBu/SPi; Kemble; station.**

## Vc8

**Agrimonia procera; Fragrant Agrimony; DG; Trowbridge; 20 spikes.**  
**Aira caryophyllea; Silver Hair-grass; DG; Trowbridge; railway land.**  
**Allium paradoxum; Few-flowered Garlic; MBu; Devizes; Nine Hills; dense patches and individual plants, 3 locations.**

**Allium schoenoprasum; Chives; MBu; Devizes; wood, bridleway and road.**  
**Allium triquetrum; Three-cornered Garlic; AA/SFi; Donhead St Mary; escaping and spreading from planting; Donhead St Andrew; Berry Wood Lane; AA/SFi; garden throw-out in layby.**  
**Amsinckia micrantha; Common Fiddleneck; PD; Pewsey; station; several plants adjacent to the platform.**  
**Arum italicum; Italian Lords-and-Ladies; SPi; Westbury; Wellhead Drove; churchyard; AA/SFi/PMW; Winterbourne Stoke; garden escape; PMW; Nomansland; Lyburn Park, New Forest; naturalised escape; 1<sup>st</sup> recent vice-county record.**  
**Aubrieta deltoidea; Aubretia; AA/SFi; Chilmark; escaped on village walls.**  
**Bergenia crassifolia; Elephant-ears; AA/SFi; Chilmark; naturalised along winterbourne banks; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.**  
**Bromus secalinus; Rye Brome; WBS; Teffont Magna; Wylle Down; naturalised along winterbourne banks; SPi & PLe; Warminster; Bishopstrow Farm; cornfield weed, plentiful.**  
**Butomus umbellatus; Flowering-rush; SPi; Limpley Stoke; River Avon.**  
**Campanula portenschlagiana; Adria Bellflower; AA/SFi/PMW; Winterbourne Stoke; escape.**  
**Cerastium diffusum; Sea Mouse-ear; PSk; Tilshead; SPTA W.**  
**Chenopodium ficifolium; Fig-leaved Goosefoot; NA/MBu/SS; Lower Woodford.**  
**Cicerbita macrophylla; Common Blue-sow-thistle; AA/SFi; Chilmark; escape.**  
**Cochlearia danica; Danish Scurvygrass; JRM; Cholderton; locations along A303.**  
**Conyza sumatrensis; Guernsey Fleabane; PMW; Whiteparish; unused drive; 1<sup>st</sup> vice-county record.**  
**Cornus sericea; Red-osier Dogwood; AA/SFi; Wardour; Teffont Magna; Swallowcliffe; Chilmark; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.**  
**Cotoneaster horizontalis; Wall Cotoneaster; AA/SFi; Chilmark; walls; PMW; Nomansland; New Forest; walls; JBr/PD; Pewsey; walls.**  
**Crepis biennis; Rough Hawk's-beard; AA/SFi/PMW; Winterbourne Stoke; 2 locations.**  
**Crocsmia paniculata; Aunt-Eliza; JRM; Ludgershall; Collingbourne Woods; large clump.**  
**Cyclamen hederifolium; Sowbread; AA/SFi; Berwick St John.**  
**Dryopteris affinis; Scaly Male-fern; JBr/PD; Bagshot.**  
**Dryopteris borreri; Scaly Male-fern; RAI/SPi; Sutton Veny.**  
**Echinochloa crus-galli; Cockspur; AA/SFi; Ansty; Swallowcliffe.**  
**Epilobium roseum; Pale Willowherb; PMW; Nomansland; New Forest.**  
**Erigeron karvinskianus; Mexican Fleabane; AA/SFi; Teffont Magna; Donhead St Mary; Berwick St John; all naturalised on walls; Sutton Mandeville; Teffont Evias;**



both naturalised in churchyards; JBE/SPi; Steeple Ashton; naturalised on walls.

**Eschscholzia californica; Californian Poppy; AA/SFi;** Swallowcliffe; roadside; 1<sup>st</sup> vice-county record.

**Euonymus latifolius; Large-leaved Spindle; AA/SFi;** Shrewton; frequent seedlings on byway; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

**Euphorbia lathyris; Caper Spurge; AA/SFi;** Tisbury; MBu; Devizes.

**Foeniculum vulgare; Fennel; JBr;** Bottlesford; paths and roadsides; AA/SFi; Swallowcliffe.

**Fumaria vaillantii; Few-flowered Fumitory; CSh/JWi;** Cholderton; recent 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

**Galega officinalis; Goat's-rue; AA/SFi/PMW;** Whiteparish; AA/SFi/PMW.

**Geum x intermedium; G. rivale x urbanum; JBE;** Horningsham; Longleat Estate.

**Helleborus orientalis; Lenten-rose; AA/SFi;** Berwick St John; AA/SFi; 1<sup>st</sup> vice-county record.

**Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus; Yellow Day-lily;** AA/WBS; Great Bedwyn; canal; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

**Hieracium maculatum agg; a hawkweed; AA/SFi;** Swallowcliffe; churchyard.

**Hirschfeldia incana; Hoary Mustard; PLe; Mere.**

**Hyacinthoides hispanica; Spanish Bluebell; JBr;** Woodborough; footpaths, road verges and arable.

**Hypericum calycinum; Rose-of-Sharon; AA/SFi;** Swallowcliffe; naturalised on hedge bank.

**Hypericum hircinum; Stinking Tutsan; SPi;** Westbury; Seven Perches; 2 bushes on verge.

**Impatiens capensis; Orange Balsam; SPi;** Limpley Stoke; Kennet & Avon Canal; JBr; Stibb Green; towpath.

**Iris laevigata; WBS;** West Wellow; West Wellow Common; introduction on edge of wet woodland; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

**Juncus tenuis; Slender Rush; JRM;** Ludgershall; Collingbourne Woods; lanes and rides, sparse to dense.

**Laburnum anagyroides; Laburnum; JBr;** Sharcott; road verges, arable and footpaths.

**Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum; Garden Yellow-archangel; AA/SFi/PMW;** Winterbourne Stoke.

**Lamium hybridum; Cut-leaved Dead-nettle; JBr;** Woodborough; road verges, arable and footpaths.

**Lathyrus latifolius; Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea; JBr;** Upavon; Casterley Camp SPTA; fence.

**Lavandula angustifolia; Garden Lavender; AA/SFi;** Chilmark; seedlings in verge from nearby garden; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

**Lemna gibba; Fat Duckweed; SPi;** Limpley Stoke; River Avon.

**Lemna minuta; Least Duckweed; AA/SFi;** Fonthill; lakeside.

**Leonurus cardiaca; Motherwort; JBr;** Pewsey; one plant; recent 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

**Lepidium ruderales; Narrow-leaved Pepperwort; RDu;** Upton Scudamore; A350 gutter.

**Leucojum aestivum; Summer Snowflake; DG;** Bishopstrow; River Wylfe; river bank.

**Leycesteria formosa; Himalayan Honeysuckle; PMW;** Nomansland; New Forest.

**Linum bienne; Pale Flax; JGt/SPi;** Erlestoke; SPTA; New Zealand Farm.

**Lithospermum officinale; Common Gromwell; PMW;** Nomansland; New Forest.

**Lonicera japonica; Japanese Honeysuckle;** RAI/JRM/BCG; Brimmerston; track; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

**Lunaria annua; Honesty; JBr;** Sharcott; road verges, footpaths and arable.

**Malus pumila; Apple; SPi;** Limpley Stoke; River Avon.

**Malva neglecta; Dwarf Mallow; JBr;** Froxfield; roadside, towpath, etc.

**Meconopsis cambrica; Welsh Poppy; AA/SFi;** Berwick St John; naturalised in churchyard.

**Medicago arabica; Spotted Medick; JBr/PD;** Pewsey.

**Medicago sativa subsp. sativa; Lucerne; JBr;** Froxfield; roadside, towpath, etc; NC/SHe; Larkhill; Stonehenge Landscape.

**Mentha x villosa; Apple-mint; AA/SFi;** Codford St Mary; Chilmark; byway.

**Muscari armeniacum; Garden Grape-hyacinth;** AA/SFi/PMW; Winterbourne Stoke; escape.

**Myosotis sylvatica; Wood Forget-me-not; AA/SFi;** Orcheston; Shrewton.

**Myriophyllum spicatum; Spiked Water-milfoil; SPi;** Limpley Stoke; River Avon.

**Nicandra physalodes; Apple-of-Peru; AA/SFi;** Swallowcliffe; 1 on roadside.

**Nigella damascena; Love-in-a-mist; AA/SFi;** Shrewton; Chilmark; verge.

**Oenanthe pimpinelloides; Corky-fruited Water-dropwort; AA/SFi;** Chilmark; beside winterbourne.

**Oenothera glazioviana; Large-flowered Evening-primrose; JBr;** Pewsey; wood edge on industrial estate; RAI/JRM/BCG; Figheledean; farmyard car park.

**Omphalodes verna; Blue-eyed-Mary; DG;** Semington; alleyway.

**Oxalis articulata; Pink-sorrel; JBr;** Pewsey; Sharcott.

**Oxalis corniculata; Procumbent Yellow-sorrel;** JBr/PD; Pewsey; verges; JBr; Woodborough; road verges, arable and footpaths; AA/SFi; Swallowcliffe.

**Oxalis exilis; Least Yellow-sorrel; AA/SFi;** Swallowcliffe; verges; JBE/SPi; Steeple Ashton; verge.

**Parthenocissus inserta; False Virginia-creeper;** AA/SFi; Teffont Evias; hedgerow; 1<sup>st</sup> county record.

**Pentaglottis sempervirens; Green Alkanet;** AA/SFi/PMW; Winterbourne Stoke.

**Pilosella aurantiaca; Fox-and-cubs; JBr/PD;** Pewsey; JBr; Woodborough; footpaths, verges and arable.

**Pilosella x stoloniflora; P. aurantiaca x officinarum;** SPi; Westbury; single patch on verge.

**Poa compressa; Flattened Meadow-grass; SPi;** Tidworth; Salisbury Plain SSSI CCDA; trackside.

**Polypodium interjectum; Intermediate Polypody;** WBS; Amesbury; river and damp meadows.

**Polystichum aculeatum; Hard Shield-fern; JBr;** Pewsey; tracks and verges.

**Potamogeton pectinatus; Fennel Pondweed; SPi;** Limpley Stoke; River Avon.

**Potentilla x mixta; P. anglica x reptans; SJJ;** Semley Common; recent 1<sup>st</sup> vice-county record.

**Primula x polyantha; False Oxlip (P. veris x vulgaris);** PSk; Westbury; SPTA W; 8 flower stems.  
AA/SFi; Donhead St Mary; next to both parents.

**Prunus domestica subsp. insititia; Damson/Bullace;** AA/SFi; Ansty.

**Prunus padus; Bird Cherry;** DG; Warminster; Sack Hill; roadside group suckering.

**Pulmonaria officinalis; Lungwort;** AA/SFi/PMW; Winterbourne Stoke; escaped in village; Donhead St Andrew; escaped on to verge; Sutton Mandeville; naturalised on verge; Shrewton.

**Ranunculus trichophyllus; Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot;** AA/SFi; Fonthill; lake side.

**Rapistrum rugosum; Bastard Cabbage;** AA/SFi; Swallowcliffe; hedge bank.

**Ribes sanguineum; Flowering Currant;** AA/SFi; Donhead St Mary; self-seeding.

**Rorippa amphibia; Great Yellow-cress;** AA/SFi; Fonthill; several lakeside locations; DG; Avoncliff; River Avon; 1 large plant.

**Rorippa islandica; Northern Yellow-cress;** EM; Upton Scudamore; Water Treatment Works; one on verge; recent 1st county record.

**Rosa rubiginosa; Sweet-briar;** RAi/BD/AM; Amesbury; grassland and scrub by roadside; WBS; Teffont Magna; one in old defunct hedge; AA/SFi; Fonthill; Abbey Woods; roadside.

**Rosa x scabriuscula; Rosa canina x tomentosa;** JBE/SPi; The Strand; Semington Brook; old hedge.

**Sagina filicaulis; Upright Pearlwort;** MBu; Maiden Bradley; JBE/SPi; Steeple Ashton.

**Salix purpurea; Purple Willow;** AA/SFi; Semley; 2 locations.

**Salix x calodendron; S. caprea x cinerea x viminalis;** AA/SFi; Semley; 2 locations; Wardour; Savage Bridge; Donhead St Andrew.

**Salix x reichardtii; S. caprea x cinerea;** JRM; Collingbourne Ducis; SPTA(E) Snail Down; by tracks.

**Sambucus ebulus; Dwarf Elder;** AA/SFi; Codford St Mary; 14 stems on verge.

**Sedum album; White Stonecrop;** AA/SFi; Shrewton.

**Sedum forsterianum; Rock Stonecrop;** AA/SFi; Teffont Magna; naturalised on wall; 1st vice-county record.

**Senecio ovatus; Wood Ragwort;** JRM; Tidworth; CCDA South; about 300 plants beside track and in woods, apparently spreading; 1st county record.

**Senecio vernalis; Eastern Groundsel;** DG; Semington; one on roundabout; 1st county record.

**Setaria pumila; Yellow Bristle-grass;** PMW; Nomansland; Lyburn Park, New Forest; sweetcorn field gateway.

**Silybum marianum; Milk Thistle;** AA/SFi; Ludwell; escape on to hedge bank; Chilmark; Teffont Magna; wall bases.

**Sorbus torminalis; Wild Service-tree;** JBr; Woodborough.

**Spirodela polyrhiza; Greater Duckweed;** SPi; Limpley Stoke; River Avon; DG; Monkton Combe; Dundas Aqueduct; River Avon.

**Stachys arvensis; Field Woundwort;** NA/MBu/SS; Lower Woodford.

**Symphytum orientale; White Comfrey;** AA/SFi; Donhead St Mary; self-sowing on bank.

**Symphytum tuberosum; Tuberous Comfrey;** JBr; Pewsey; tracks and verges.

**Trifolium micranthum; Slender Trefoil;** WBS; Amesbury; damp meadows; 2 locations.

**Triticum aestivum; Bread Wheat;** AA/SFi; Swallowcliffe; JBE/SPi; Steeple Ashton; pavement crack.

**Valerianella carinata; Keeled-fruited Cornsalad;** AA/SFi; Chilmark.

**Verbena bonariensis; Argentinian Vervain;** JBE/SPi; Steeple Ashton; self-sown in pavement cracks; 1st county record.

**Vicia sativa subsp. sativa; Common Vetch;** JRM; Ludgershall; Collingbourne Woods.

**Vicia villosa; Fodder Vetch;** CSh/JWi; Cholderton; 2 locations.

**Vinca minor; Lesser Periwinkle;** AA/SFi/PMW; Winterbourne Stoke.

**Vulpia bromoides; Squirreltail Fescue;** MBu; Devizes; kerb cracks and parking areas; JBE/SPi; Steeple Ashton; plentiful in pavement cracks.

**Vulpia unilateralis; Mat-grass Fescue;** SPi; Tidworth; Salisbury Plain SSSI; lots at edge of track and in barish ground; PDS/KT/PGa; Tidworth; SPTA:CCDA; barish ground; 1st county record.

## Vc 12

**Calystegia pulchra; Hairy Bindweed;** JRM; Tidworth; south of Station Road.

**Cicerbita macrophylla; Common Blue-sow-thistle;** JRM; Tidworth; south of Station Road.

**Cornus alba; White Dogwood;** JRM; Tidworth; south of Station Road; waste ground; 1st county record.

**Epilobium lanceolatum; Spear-leaved Willowherb;** JRM; Tidworth; South of Home Farm.

**Helichrysum italicum; Curry-plant;** JRM; Tidworth; south of Station Road; waste ground; 1st county record.

**Oenothera biennis; Common Evening-primrose;** JRM; Salisbury; South of Clarendon Hill.

**Prunus cerasifera; Cherry Plum;** JRM; Tidworth; south of Station Road; both normal and red forms.

**Rumex pulcher; Fiddle Dock;** JRM; Tidworth; Home Farm area.

**Salix alba; White Willow;** JRM; Tidworth.

**Solanum lycopersicum; Tomato;** JRM; Tidworth Home Farm area; abandoned farm yard; 1st vice-county record.

**Weigela florida; Weigelia;** JRM; Tidworth; 2 locations on waste ground; 1st county record.

## Note

The range of habitats in which plants occur never ceases to surprise. Computer buffs will have been particularly interested to read that *Conyza sumatrensis* was recorded in an unused drive.

*Compiled by John Presland*



# County Recorder's Review 2017

Sharon Pilkington offers a round-up of botanical recording activity in Wiltshire in 2017.

## Recording

With only three recording seasons left to collect data for the BSBI Atlas Updating Project (also known, less tongue-twistingly as Atlas 2020) Wiltshire's most active botanical recorders/WBS members continued to target their efforts in parts of the county that had received little attention since 2000. At last, the gaps are getting smaller and coverage of the county has increased greatly although North Wiltshire still needs more effort – as ever.

Sue Fitzpatrick returned to full recording activity after recovering from her hip surgery and immediately expanded her efforts into new areas. Dave Green really got into the swing of things in the NW of the county and Ness Williams returned to offer a helping hand with other underworked southern areas. Ness was involved with the Wiltshire Flora Mapping Project three decades ago and is a most competent botanist so her return was most welcome. Very sadly, Tom Cairns, who had been a very enthusiastic and active recorder in recent years in the Melksham area, passed away after being diagnosed with cancer. I'm sure he'd have been pleased to learn that his recording work in ST96 will be continued in 2018 by Jasmine Walters.

Between us, Richard Aisbitt and I received 62,771 botanical records with a 2017 date. The majority were generated by the various recorders engaged in Atlas 2020 along with others entered in Living Record, iRecord and incidental records and reports received by the Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre. The records centre also sent a most welcome batch of 40,000+ plus records dating back a number of years.

Two recording meetings were held by the WBS in 2017 to specifically target

under-worked parts of the county. In June two groups visited one of the most remote parts of the county, near Fosbury and Tidcombe on the Wiltshire/Hampshire border whilst in August several recording parties set out from Mere. Both meetings generated lots of valuable records for these areas and much fun was had along the way. A positive side-effect of such meetings is that less experienced botanists gain improved identification and confidence in recording species which they can then apply to their own recording.

## New county/vice-county records

Such high levels of recording for Atlas 2020 not surprisingly generated many new county or vice-county records, the vast majority of these being naturalised introductions or casuals rather than genuine natives. Dave Green (on occasion with Helena Crouch) mined a rich seam of these at Great Cumberwell land-fill site, near Bradford-on-Avon. His finds included: Marsh-mallow *Althaea hirsuta*, Prince's-feather *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, Common Morning-glory *Ipomoea purpurea*, Royal Mallow *Malva trimestris*, White Mignonette *Reseda alba*, Silver Ragwort *Senecio cinerea*, Sweet-

William Catchfly *Silene armeria* and Maltese-cross *Silene chalcidonica*.

Elsewhere in Wiltshire, other new records included:

*Betula celtiberica*

Furzley Common: edge of woodland. Wiltshire Botanical Society, conf. Sharon Pilkington.

Cape-gooseberry *Physalis peruviana*  
Royal Wootton Bassett: single plant growing on waste ground adjacent to new house builds. Martin Buckland.

Christmas-rose *Helleborus niger*  
Two records. Kingston Deverill: several escapes. Anne Appleyard, Sue Fitzpatrick, Irene Lucas and Vanessa Williams.  
Burton: dumped soil in woodland. Dave Green.

Creeping Thistle x Marsh Thistle  
*Cirsium x celakovskianum*  
Bentley Wood: Pat Woodruffe.

French Rocket *Sisymbrium erysimoides*  
Malmesbury: pavement-wall angle. About 6 plants. Sharon Pilkington, WBS meeting.



Golden Alison *Aurinia saxatilis*  
Devizis: growing in cracks in roadside wall. Martin Buckland.

Hairy Michaelmas-daisy *Aster novae-anglicae*  
Ashley Wood: in a dumped industrial area. Dave Green.

Intermediate Periwinkle *Vinca difformis*  
Seend Cleeve: well-established and spreading on verge of track near houses. Sharon Pilkington.

Knotted Crane's-bill *Geranium nodosum*  
Market Lavington: garden escape into local footway. Martin Buckland.

New Zealand Wind-grass  
*Anemanthele lessoniana*  
Limpley Stoke and Bradford on Avon: Dave Green and Helena Crouch.  
Bittlesea Farm: Dave Green.

Orange-peel Clematis *Clematis tangutica*  
Great Cheverell: naturalised in *Buddleja* scrub on railway embankment. Sharon Pilkington.

Pale Corydalis *Pseudofumaria alba*  
Highworth: 8 plants on face of high stone wall by Brewery Street car-park. Richard Aisbitt.

Pasta Wheat *Triticum durum*  
Tidcombe: volunteers on both bridleway verges. Anne Appleyard and Sue Fitzpatrick.

Royal Mallow *Malva trimestris*  
Dilton Marsh: single large plant in

pasture. Darrell Harrison, conf. Sharon Pilkington.

*Salix gmelinii*  
Hilperton Marsh: several trees in ditch-line and bank. 4-5 m height, coppiced in the past. Dave Green.

Small Alison *Alyssum alyssoides*  
Allington: escaped in village. Anne Appleyard and Sue Fitzpatrick.

*Taraxacum pulchrifolium*  
Downton: on verge. David Leadbetter, conf. A.J. Richards.

### Species Focus: Hairy Bindweed *Calystegia pulchra*

Every year certain plants come to my attention as having been overlooked or misidentified. Some of these are genuine new colonists of our county. In 2017 this honour is bestowed on Hairy Bindweed *Calystegia pulchra*, a large and showy herbaceous climber.

I first came across this introduced species romping vigorously over nettles and scrub by a layby in Amesbury earlier this year. Then I found it at the side of the A303 near Stonehenge, and again in two different Amesbury hedgerows. I was struck by the thought that a plant that I may have been dismissing as Large Bindweed *C. silvatica*, an introduced species and one that is widespread across Wiltshire might sometimes have been this species instead.

What attracted me to the plant was the size and colour of its flowers, which are at least the same diameter as *C. silvatica*. The flowers are robustly

striped with pink (apparently they can also be all pink though I've not yet encountered this form) and, like *C. silvatica*, have inflated, pouch-like bracts that hide the sepals. The leaves are a peculiar shape, with the lower part being more parallel-side than the tapering leaves of *C. silvatica*. *C. silvatica* is usually white-flowered but can also be pink-striped and one of the important diagnostic characters of *C. pulchra* is the presence of appressed hairs on the pedicels (flower stalks). These are often very sparse and confined to the bottom or top of the pedicel where they are usually visible only with a hand-lens.

Since becoming familiar with this plant, I, and a few other recorders have found it in a number of other places. It seems to be particularly frequent along the Wiltshire A303 where perhaps its seeds are dispersed by vehicles but it's worth hunting for in August and September when it is at its most showy in roadside hedges and waysides elsewhere. I'm sure there's much more of it to be found.



## Subscriptions

*Subscriptions became due in January; please get your payment to Sue Fitzpatrick. The rates are:*

Single member £15.00  
Family membership £20.00

Sue's address: Dr Sue Fitzpatrick, 4 Wyndham Park, Wyndham Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3BA  
Phone and email: 01722 410807, [susan@fitzpatrick7.plus.com](mailto:susan@fitzpatrick7.plus.com)

*You can set up a standing order: details from Sue.*

*We hope that you will renew and take part in the society's activities.*

You can download this newsletter (and other recent newsletters) in colour from [www.wiltbotsoc.co.uk](http://www.wiltbotsoc.co.uk)