

NEWSLETTER

Issue 39

Winter 2011-2012

WILTSHIRE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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Sunday 16th October
2011

River Avon and Kennet and Avon Canal

Leaders – Tom and Jean
Smith

This was our first go at leading a field trip for the Wiltshire Botanical Society and we thoroughly enjoyed the experience, helped by having the company of nine other members for this trip, good weather and a variety of habitats. The idea of this trip was to combine a general interest walk with a pub lunch.

From the station car park at Bradford-on-Avon our route was through Barton Farm Country Park almost all the way to Avoncliff with the last 100 yards or so along the canal towpath.

We began by making our way to the path beside the River Avon, but before we got there John Presland pointed out a Winter Heliotrope *Petasites fragrans*, which was flowering a few weeks ahead of its appointed flowering period. We stopped at the edge of the river and inspected the seed heads of Wild Teasel



Photos: Tom

**... good
weather and a
variety of
habitats.**

Dipsacus fullonum discussing whether this might have been a long-headed hybrid (developed for use in the wool industry).

Our attention was drawn to a plant with a red/purple tinge which was floating on the river, it transpired this was Water Fern – *Azolla filiculoides*; we saw more of this along the river and it seemed really quite abundant.

A stone wall offered another habitat for species such as Pellitory of the wall *Parietaria*

judaica and Ivy-leaved Toadflax *Cymbalaria muralis*.

We moved on to cross the river by the packhorse bridge but before we did this we explored the adjacent ford where we found Ivy-leaved duckweed *Lemna trisulca* – a non-native species doing very well in this environment.

Once on the northern side of the river we found a Welled Thistle *Carduus crispus*. The Council has planted a range of trees and shrubs in this area so there was a good display of autumn colour from the Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*, Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*. With not very much still flowering, we were pleased to find Common winter cress *Barbarea vulgaris* flowering strongly.

Once back over on to the southern side of the river we continued our walk at a quicker pace (mindful of our lunchtime reservation at The Cross Guns). However, we couldn't help ourselves stopping to look at a log with some interesting bracket fungi. My first thoughts were *Ganoderma* spp. John Presland thought it could be a Maze gill fungus *Daedalea*. We were





Blushing Bracket *Daedaleopsis confragosa* var. *intermedia*

lucky that John had his camera with him and took some good photos to aid subsequent identification; the most prominent bracket on the log turned out to be a rare variety of the Blushing Bracket *Daedaleopsis confragosa* var. *intermedia*. This variety has definite areas of roundish pores and definite areas with very long pores. The popular name derives from the reddening of the underside when pressed. On closer examination there was indeed also a species of *Ganoderma* present on this log:

G. australe. All the pores of *Ganoderma* are small and round, helping distinguish this genus from *Daedaleopsis*.

On the opposite bank of the river we saw a row of mature Caucasian Wingnut trees *Pterocarya fraxinifolia* with their impressively long, hanging catkins bearing seeds.

The far western section of Barton Farm Country Park is quieter, being away from surfaced paths and further from the canal



Small Teasel

... Becky Addy Woods, an area of shady deciduous woodland.

towpath. We didn't have time to try the Willow Maze which has been planted here, so we continued on our walk identifying both Marsh Stitchwort *Stellaria palustris* and Water Chickweed *Myosoton aquaticum* along the way.

We had a very pleasant lunch at the pub (The Cross Guns) at Avoncliff. They were very busy (even at 12 noon), but were well-organised and managed to serve us relatively quickly so that we were on our way again by 1.30 p.m. by which time there was a lengthy queue just to get in to the pub.

After a brief detour to the aqueduct to admire the view, we retraced our steps to cross under the aqueduct and made our way up the hill to Becky Addy Woods, an area of shady deciduous woodland. In the wood we found another bracket fungus – Many-zoned Polypore *Trametes versicolor*. We also found a Nettle-leaved Bellflower, *Campanula trachelium* that had just finished flowering.

We found an interesting meadow on the other side of the wood. A number of plants had finished flowering but were still evident: Bath Asparagus *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*, Ladies Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*. However, still flowering were: Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Lesser Hawkbit *Crepis Capillaris*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*.

From the meadow we descended in bright sunshine to the canal, passing bush vetch, Gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata* and much Small Teasel *Dipsacus pilosus* (gone to seed). It was a short walk along the canal to the Tithe Barn which added diversity to our visit, then back to the cars to end an enjoyable trip.

Tom and Jean Smith

Sunday, 2 October 2011

Bentley Wood Fungus Foray

This year the Salisbury Natural History Society, Wiltshire Botanical Society and Friends of Bentley Wood fungus foray on 2nd October found us in Compartment 11, Beechways Copse. Collection of any specimen from this SSSI, for any reason, has to be agreed by the Trustees in advance and, in addition, this year the Trustees requested that we should collect as few duplicates as possible. To this end the participants formed three groups, each with a leader who supervised the collecting. Thus we were able to cover different sections within the agreed area in the 1.5 hour foray. The number of fungal fruiting bodies seen was fewer than on some previous years because of the dry conditions. This year we are very grateful to Malcolm Storey again and to Paul Howland and James Macpherson for identifying the collection.

Some 47 different species were identified. These included two members of the *Agaricus* genus, in which some of our edible mushrooms belong, but both fungi found were poisonous. They were *Agaricus xanthodermus* var *lepiotoides*, the Yellow Stainer, and *Agaricus placomyces* (*moelleri*) the Inky Mushroom both of which bruise yellow, but the latter has a light cap covered with tiny dark scales, denser and darker at the centre. Other fungi found belonging to the *Amanita* genus, and therefore likely to be poisonous, were *Amanita vaginata*, the Grisette and *Amanita rubescens*, the Blusher which is poisonous raw but said to be edible after cooking. However it is not dissimilar to the Panther Cap which is deadly poisonous!

Some of the more robust *Mycena* species were found, *Mycena pura*, the Lilac Bonnet, *Mycena rosea*, the Rosy Bonnet, and



Examining the catch

However it is not dissimilar to the Panther Cap which is deadly poisonous!

This "green" wood was, and still is, a prized find for wood carvers and turners as the fungal hyphae invade all of the wood leaving it this distinctive turquoise colour

Mycena pelianthina, the Blackedge Bonnet (gills with black edges). A piece of dead wood contained not just the distinctive turquoise coloured wood but also little "Green Elf Cups" of *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*. This "green" wood was, and still is, a prized find for wood carvers and turners as the fungal hyphae invade all of the wood leaving it this distinctive turquoise colour. In the past it was used to great effect in marquetry with inlays of different coloured woods in pictures and boxes etc. and known as Tunbridge Ware. Other different-looking fungi included two types of Coral Fungi, *Clavulina cinerea* & *Clavulina cristata*, the Grey and White Coral Fungi respectively, and also the more slender but similar-looking *Ramaria abietina* which was ochre-green coloured. The last is classed as uncommon to rare, found in soil and leaf litter most often in conifer plantations.

Our grateful thanks to Sue Shears who yet again provided tea and great cakes at the end of the foray. It is much appreciated and always makes a happy ending to this event.

From an account by Ailsa McKee, originally published in Bentley Wood Nature Notes

Sunday, 20 November 2011

The Cholderton Estate

Leader: Henry Edmunds

Eighteen members met on a mild but misty morning to take a stroll and find out more about the workings of this remarkable farm. We met with owner, Henry Edmunds, who took us on a short journey to the site of his Water Company, a reservoir that was dug out by his great grandfather. The chalk grassland area around the reservoir was surveyed by members of the Society on a rather wet morning in 2010. The botanical interest was not so obvious on this morning but we were able to identify a plant of *Rosa micrantha*, one of the downy roses with glands which give the characteristic apple odour. We learnt a great deal about the area: the gentle control of scrub and the possible archaeological interest. In sharp

contrast to the many chalk-loving plants we also saw a few specimens of Wood Sage (*Teucrium scordium*) which are much more common on acidic soils. It seems likely that there are very small areas of leached soils, which support the growth of such surprising plants. Those of us who try to learn a little about bryophytes were also pleased when Sharon pointed out a few species indicative of high quality chalk grassland.

Next we moved to a few fields where some polo ponies were grazing. They proved to be very welcoming – almost too friendly for some! From here we could see a lapwing plot where one of the delights of 2011 had been found. Henry explained that his continued cultivation of this area had allowed a colony of Martin's Ramping Fumitory (*Fumaria reuteri*) to grow. This year there were hundreds of plants which would have gone un-noticed if it had not been for his sharp eyes and knowledge that he had something different and worthy of further investigation. There are only around 13 sites for this plant in the whole of the UK although records for 2011 have been particularly good. There is just one other record from Hants – from an allotment on the Isle of Wight – and none (as yet) from Wiltshire.

We also inspected a thick hedge of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) on which the brown hairstreak butterfly lays eggs. Two white eggs were found and I am sure there were many more hiding away. Unfortunately the females lay on young twigs which are often pruned or slashed away during autumn management. The answer is not to cut both sides in the same year. Simple really.

Throughout our walk we had been entertained and enlightened by the various snippets that Henry related. We arrived back at the farmyard for a rather late but most welcome lunch.

Pat Woodruffe

Passed Friends

Christine McQuitty

Sad to say, Christine, a founder member of the WBS, died last year. Her family was attracted to Wiltshire because of a love of barges - they actually owned one. She was square coordinator for SU26 in the Wiltshire Flora Mapping Project and did a lot of recording with Winifred White, as well as Moira Robertson, Joy Newton, Eileen Rollo, Audrey Summers and others. I found over 2000 plant records of hers on the Wiltshire database, some with Moira, some with John Rayner and some from her alone. Wild Cornflower on Carver's Hill Farm near Shalbourne was a particularly nice find. During the WFMP years, she loved the opportunity to learn more about plants, to meet with farmers and landowners and to access sites which were previously unexplored.

At her request, the collection at her memorial service has been sent to the Wiltshire Botanical Society. We warmly thank Christine and her family for this kind gesture.

Richard Aisbitt



Joy on Knap Hill

Both involved in producing the 1992 "Wiltshire Flora"

Joy Newton

Sadly, Joy died early in February this year. An expert botanist, self-taught through determined study, she served on the steering group for the Wiltshire Flora Mapping Group, whose task was to update the 1957 "Flora of Wiltshire" by Donald Grose. As a coordinator and surveyor for WFMP, she personally contributed around 16,000 records of the 250,000 collected and also wrote a chapter for the resulting "Wiltshire Flora", published in 1992. She took part in the BSBI Local Change project and various other surveys over the years.

Joy skilfully organised the programme of meetings for the Wiltshire Botanical Society from the beginning of the society in 1992 until Pat Woodruffe took on the task in 2002. Her knowledge of Wiltshire helped in this, as she loved the county and would study the map for new places to visit, setting off each morning to explore. Many of us have fond memories of accompanying her on field meetings or of visiting nice sites informally with her. She had sharp eyes to spot interesting plants and would help beginners with gentle expertise. I especially appreciated her helping me to recognise grasses, a group that many of us have found difficult. We also appreciated her healthy fruit buns, which often appeared at meetings, indoors or out.

We have lost a good friend.



Saturday 3 December 2011

Protected Road Verges

Fiona Elphick, County Ecologist

Road verges in the county can be protected for biodiversity and local character reasons by implementing criteria from a set of designation guidelines. To be appropriate the road verge must

The scheme currently covers some 50 verges and involves 30 + monitors.

Whilst most of the monitoring is undertaken by volunteers a regular survey every five years is also undertaken by a professional ecologist to ensure that the species diversity is being maintained.



comply with at least one of the criteria.

1. The presence of a rare or nationally scarce species, including RDB, BAP and species listed in schedule 8 of the wildlife and countryside act, 1981.
2. The presence of species which are rare or local in Wiltshire and are included in the Wiltshire Notable Species List.
3. The verge is an integrated part of an NNR, SSSI, County Wildlife Sites or contiguous with significant areas of ancient or semi-natural

woodland or a wildlife corridor linking such sites.

4. The verge is of geological importance and designated as an SSSI or RIG site.
5. The verge is recognised as of high community value, a catchall for verges which may not meet any of the more prescriptive criteria.

An overriding consideration for designation and management of verges is that of safety both for road traffic and for those working on the site.

The complete set of rules are available from Richard which has the details of how they are implemented to allow management of these special road verges which can be refuges for native species and by moderating the management these species may be preserved for the future.

Examples include Deptford, which has a verge for a community of orchids none of them particularly rare, but well valued by the local community who are involved in monitoring these beautiful plants.

An A36 road verge which was reseeded is now protected for the butterflies which have been attracted.

Minor roads, green lanes and drovers routes are also included



Botanists surveying



Glow-worm

particular ly ones passing through woodland e.g. Common Hill near Ford. The verge in the Midford Valley presents a

dilemma as it is used as a traffic short cut, which compromises the management.

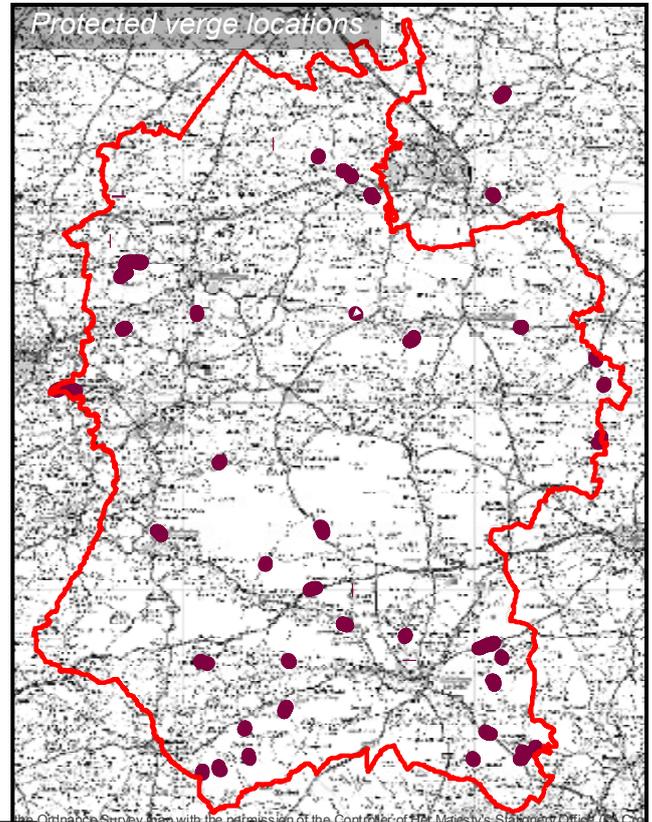
The scheme currently covers some 50 verges and involves 30 + monitors. Further volunteers are being recruited so if you would like to join in please let Fiona have your details. Also if you are aware of any verges which are

All in all this is a most worthwhile project in which many members of the Botanical group participate as both monitors and recorders.

Clare and Mark Kitchen



Bird's-nest Orchid



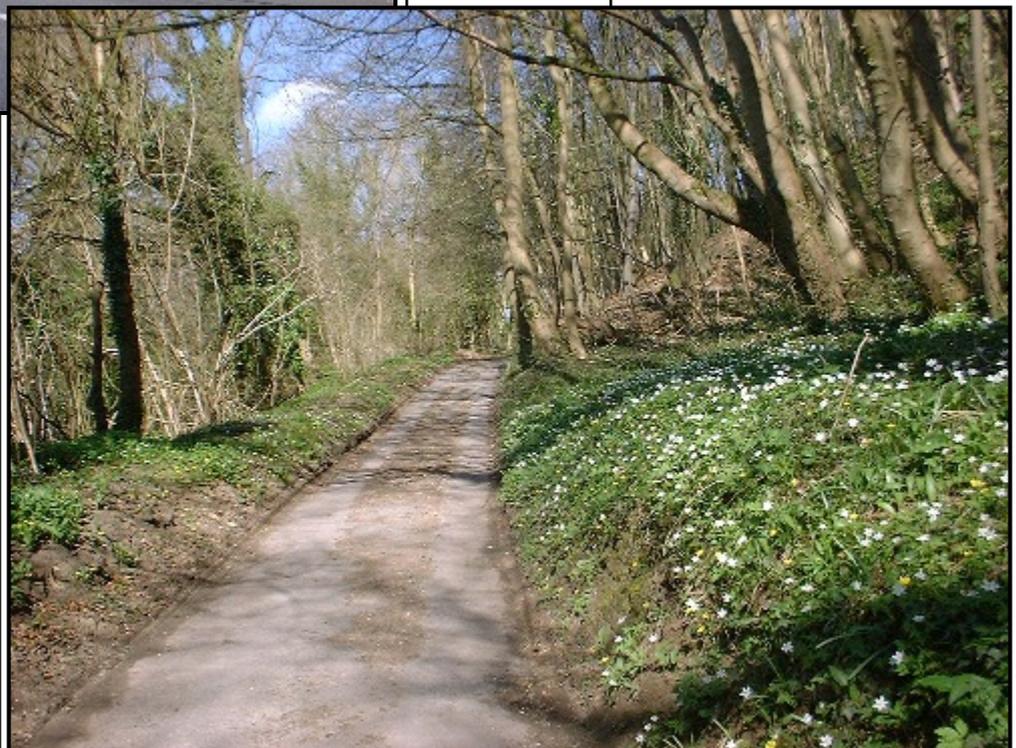
Contractors at work



Danewort

not in the scheme but fall within the selection criteria Fiona would be pleased to consider them.

Whilst most of the monitoring is undertaken by volunteers a regular survey every five years is also undertaken by a professional ecologist to ensure that the species diversity is being maintained. Over time this project will produce a large amount of archival material including photographs, observations, and measurements etc for the future. There is also a regular newsletter, which Fiona is keen to have articles for.



Saturday 14 January
2012

Wiltshire Atlas Recording Project

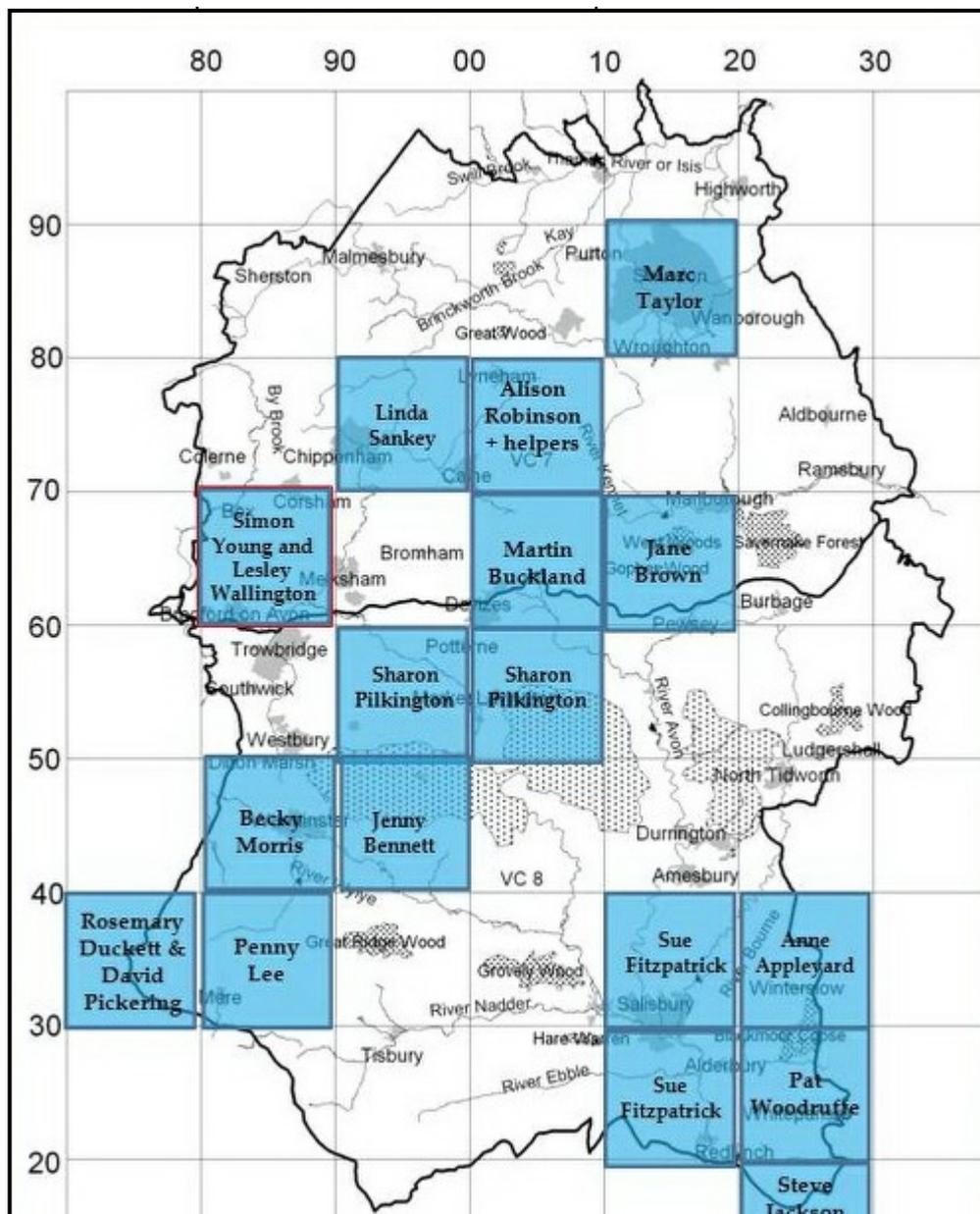
Sharon Pilkington

Our January meeting attracted a large and enthusiastic group of people, keen to learn more about the project and how they might contribute to it.

Sharon described the project in The Newsletter of 2010 – 11 (Issue 37) and her article can be found on our website. The aim is to record most plants at a 1km square basis (4 figure grid reference) and more uncommon ones to 10m or even 1m (8 or 10 figures). The project will extend over the next eight years with a view to BSBI producing a new UK Atlas by 2025.

One of Sharon's aims at this meeting was to recruit more volunteers and considerable additional interest was expressed. Ideally a member or group is being asked to take responsibility for recording within a 10 km square of which there are 27 entire ones in the county and a further 17 that straddle the boundary with another county. Those squares which have been adopted are indicated below together with their coordinators.

Although it would be a daunting task to record all of the plants in each of the 100 squares that make up a 10 km square, this is not necessary. The recommended approach is to work out how many different accessible habitats there are in the 10 km square and ensure that each of these is surveyed at least once at an optimal time of year. A reasonably sized woodland, for example, might straddle several 1km squares but it is sufficient to record one main square or, if the nature of the woodland varies, to use a single recording sheet to record all of the wood, indicating



The aim is to record most plants at a 1km square basis (4 figure grid reference) and more uncommon ones to 10m (8 or 10 figures).

which records are from outside the main chosen square.

The project ideally requires records of all higher plants, including ferns, but an individual could take on an area and omit certain categories of plant that s/he does not feel confident in identifying – grasses or ferns for example. The plants that are included in the Wiltshire Rare Plants Register (available from Sharon on request) are regarded as uncommon or threatened either in the Wiltshire or national context and should be recorded as accurately as possible. All plants that have established naturally are to be included but not planted material, such as street trees or crops. Where there is doubt about the provenance of seeded areas, for example an arable

reversion field, this should be noted in a comments column. Others that should be recorded in detail include invasive aliens (to 8 or 10 fig grid references). Only relatively easy-to-identify hybrids should be attempted, for example the hybrid between goat and grey willow or red and white campion. Microspecies are probably best avoided – these include the various Hieraciums, Taraxacums, Brambles, and Euphrasias. Do I hear a sigh of relief? On stoneworts, Sharon asks that they be collected and passed to her in a fresh condition to check, if possible.

BSBI provides recording sheets that are customised for each vice county. They can be downloaded from www.bsbi.org/resources or obtained from Sharon by email or

post. These are the ideal tool for fieldwork and volunteers are required to fill in one for each site visited. The front of the sheet provides a recorder with the opportunity to fill in all the information necessary to satisfy BSBI requirements:

- Grid Reference (4 fig), Tetrad, Vice County
- Name of the Locality, Habitat, Route (optional)
- Recorder(s) name(s) and dates of recording
- Space to record uncommon species in detail.

The back of the recording sheet lists all species that are likely to be found in the given vice county. The print is small, Latin names are used and abbreviated and a species number is also provided to aid with data input at a later stage. This sheet is not user-friendly, perhaps, but it does allow for the minimum of page shuffling when working outside.

This project is going to generate a tremendous amount of data and help will be needed to transfer the information from the recording sheets to digital format. Richard has already produced a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet which, if filled in accurately, can be imported directly into the database which both he and Sharon use to store all WBS records. This format is then suitable for both the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre and BSBI to utilise. Clearly, not everyone will want to transfer their own records, using their own computers, but if a number of us do so, the speed with which the records will be processed can be increased and the hours which Richard and Sharon spend processing the data can be reduced substantially. Richard

will forward a copy of this spreadsheet on request.

Another way of entering records, of plants or other more casual observations of other groups, was shown to us by Adrian Bicker, from Dorset, who has developed a programme called Living Records. This programme is being taken up by a number of groups and individuals, notably the Dorset Environmental Records Centre. Adrian designed the programme with the aim of helping naturalists to record their data easily and channel it in the direction of a county recorder. The county recorder is able to verify the records before they become incorporated into the main databases. The only person who can edit the records is the person who initiated them. This there is no chance of data being altered by others – for whatever reason.

This programme is downloadable, free of charge, and may offer us the opportunity to keep up to date with the input of our records and also, if we wish, to carry out a little mapping of our efforts within our own squares. This could prove to be a very useful way of keeping check of our coverage of the square, its habitats and geology. Several members should have had the opportunity to trial this programme by the time this report is in

... work out how many different accessible habitats there are in the 10 km square and ensure that each of these is surveyed at least once at an optimal time of year.

BSBI provides recording sheets that are customised for each vice county.

“Living Records” could be helpful

print and it is anticipated that further comment will be made at the AGM in March. For those who wish to find out more use the link:

www.LivingRecord.net/index.cfm?key=KUSZLJLZFPWSKPGLKM PYAKVGYBTHKW

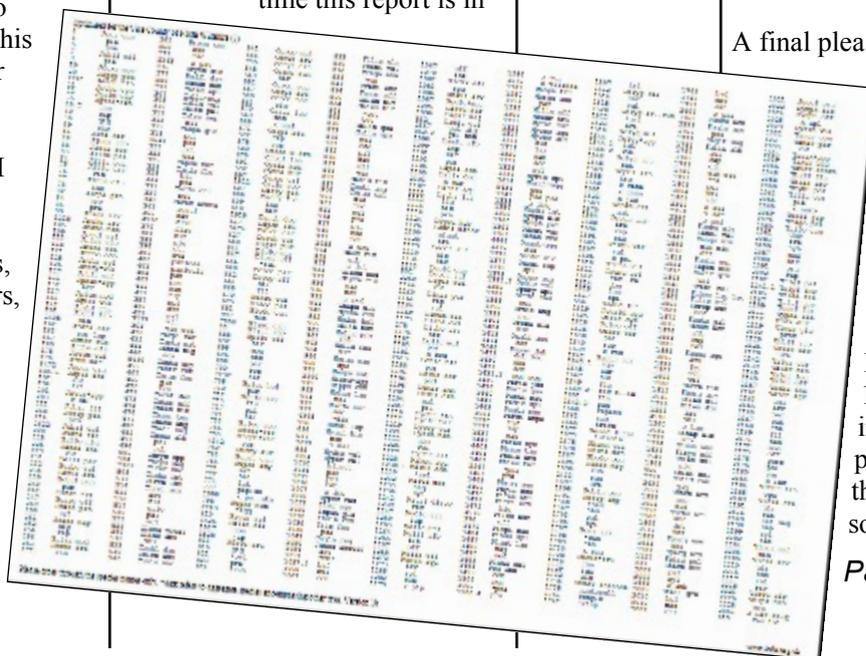
Joining Living Record through this page automatically puts you in the Wilts Botanical Society team – and joining this team automatically adds Vascular Plants to the list of subjects that interest you. You can get straight on with entering records. Open the Options page to add other subjects.

Sharon offered to run some identification workshops and asked for volunteers to suggest plant groups where help was required. Currently we have a Ferns Workshop arranged for October and there are plans afoot to run a Grasses workshop and also one on Composites in the summer of 2013. I hope it goes without saying that members are always willing to help others with identification of specimens brought to any of the field meetings.

Sharon is also preparing a detailed information pack about the Atlas project for the volunteers who have already stepped forward and this will be available at the AGM in March.

A final plea – please don't be put off by the seeming complexities of computer input and analysis. ALL help will be appreciated and, through teamwork, we hope that this project, like the Wiltshire Flora Mapping Project of 1980s, will stimulate interest and, above all, provide enjoyment for the next eight years or so.

Pat Woodruffe



Mistletoe

During this exceptionally mild October and November, many plants have got their seasons out of gear and there are a number of plants flowering a second time or else extending their season. I have a very good display of Campanulas doing well in the garden.

Now the trees are mostly bare, I have noticed the number of mistletoe clumps on the poplars at Countess Roundabout Amesbury have increased considerably. There are now about eighteen. Although I can't do a complete count before the lights change! I remember a few years ago there were only a few. As Christmas approaches, mistletoe is of seasonal interest. And much is imported from France where it is abundant. There are trees in the district of Central that are burdened with dozens of the parasite on each tree. It is dioecious plant (male and females on separate plants) but there are twice as many females as males. The females are most desirable for decoration as these form the white juicy berries. A single seed is polyembryonic producing several seedlings each. The inconspicuous flowers appear in February and are pollinated by blue bottles. There are not many insects about to do this job. It was supposed to be aphrodisiac (male buds look very suggestive). The berries have a sticky juice formerly used for bird lime. When fermented, they produce a resin, viscin which is poisonous. It yields a narcotic, nervine used to control epilepsy and convulsions. The seeds are dispersed by mistle thrushes that wipe their beaks on a branch and thus deposit the seed. From accounts in the press, it seems that this year has been a good one for mistletoe and there promises to be a bumper harvest.

Barbara Last

I make a point of never removing a seedling until I can identify it ...

... dispersed by mistle thrushes that wipe their beaks on a branch and thus deposit the seed ...

My Garden Weeds

Why should 'my' garden weeds be different from anyone else's? Most are not, of course – Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.) and Daisy (*Bellis perennis*) along with various species of *Veronica* and *Geraniaceae* are as common as in anyone's garden. Unless, of course you are a meticulous gardener who will not allow a weed to dare show its head. I am not – I admit to having lost the battle against some of them, others I allow because I find them beautiful or are useful to wildlife (or myself to eat!). I make a point of never removing a seedling until I can identify it and this way have come across some interesting finds.

Our garden, now some 32 years since new, is sited on the western outskirts of Bradford-on-Avon at around the 100-metre contour. The ground slopes quite steeply down to the Bristol River Avon and faces south towards the Salisbury Plain. The view takes in Westbury White Horse, Cley Hill and Alfred's Tower and is largely rural. On old maps the area is called Quarry Field, so that the soil is very stony, alkaline and very free draining. With such a wide view and facing south, the price we pay is exposure to all the winds – and what they carry – that come straight up from the Bristol Channel on South-westerlies.

Undoubtedly the wind has been responsible for a number of weeds and naturally all those adapted to that means of dispersal, but I can't help but wonder if it has also brought some of the very tiny seeds as well. It is quite a puzzle wondering how some have here.

I suspect that Babington's Poppy (*Papaver lecoqii*) may have been already present in the seed bank as it is more common on this side of Bradford than elsewhere. Common Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) put in its first appearance this year in my garden though it is also quite common locally. Probably Round-

leaved Fluellen (*Kickxia spuria*) was also present as seed as it appeared fairly soon with cultivation, as also Sweet Violet (*Viola odorata*) and Dog Violet (*Viola riviniana*). *V. odorata* seems always to be white flowered in these parts.

Wildlife, of which we have a fair amount, is no doubt responsible for some introductions. I would not have expected to find either Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*) or Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) in my sunny ground, albeit in slightly shady areas which coincide with access paths entering the garden made by badgers. They have setts in the woodland nearby. Squirrels would supply me with a forest of walnuts and hazels, and Jays with oaks to say nothing of the yews, brambles and elderberries donated by Blackbirds and Starlings. I suspect a Blackbird may be the provider of a Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*) which is not uncommon locally, though I know of none growing closer than half a mile away. Even further from us, in so far as I know, grow Harebells (*Campanula rotundifolia*). It was a lovely surprise to discover a patch growing in the lawn in our back garden where we carefully mow round it at flowering time. It joins the Large Thyme (*Thymus pulegioides*), Field Madder (*Sherardia arvensis*) and Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) amongst others to give a downland feel to the lawn. We don't use herbicides so have a flowery mead.

I haven't found a local field where the Field Madder grows, but it has become quite common in pavement edges nearby over the past few years, as has also Cornsalad (*Valerianella carinata*). That has recently jumped the garden wall to appear in a border.

I see Ivy-leaved Toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*) creeping closer to us up from the town. Will that be next? Over the years I have listed over 90 different species, some ever present, others appearing once or twice and then never again.

Gwyneth Yerrington

Tim's Crosswords

Did you have trouble with 'Flora Mini'? Here are the answers.

Classic Botanical Localities – The South Gower Coast

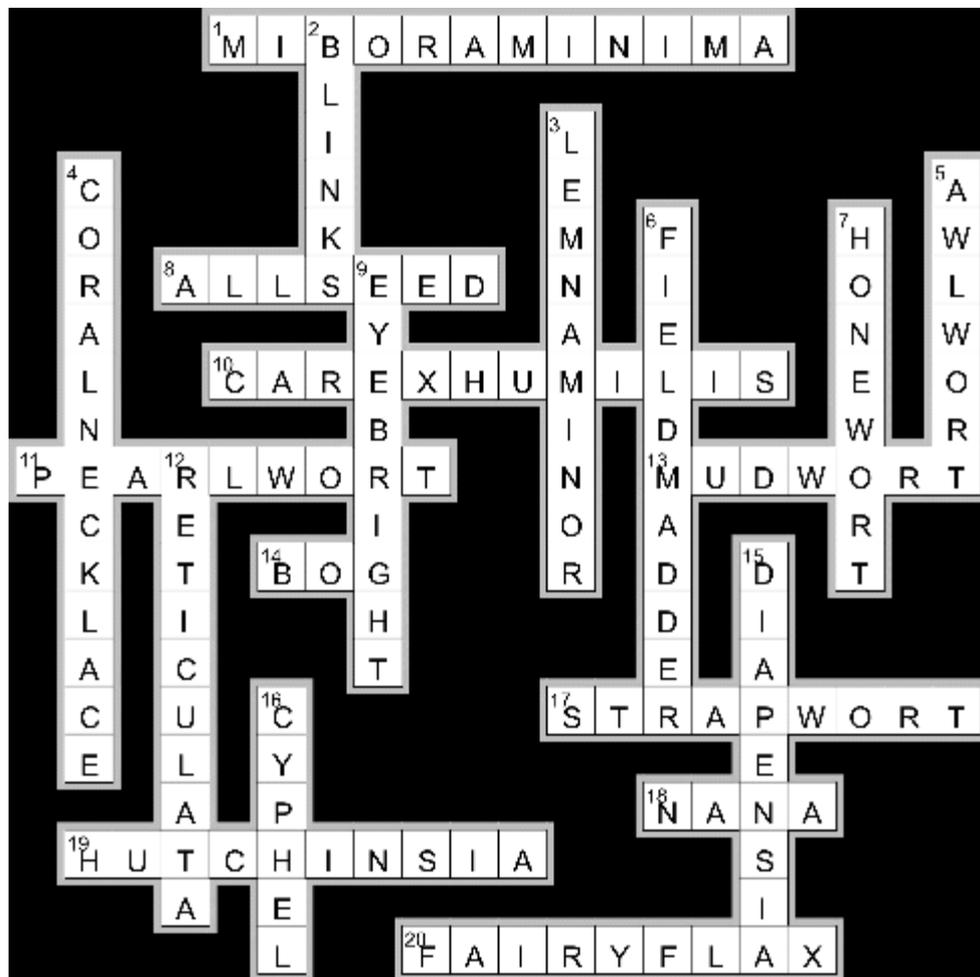
This time we look at one of the most amazing places for plants in the UK and the site for this year's WBS holiday.

Across

1. Liverwort found in the dune slacks
7. Yellow Whitlow grass
10. Rock-rose white with age
12. Tree mallow *Lavatera*
14. First half is Welsh for moorland
16. The Welsh name
17. Writer found 'Communing with the cold and the quietness'
19. Author of No 99 NN
20. Hip little acrocarp moss
21. Named after an 11th Century Welsh Prince
22. *Matthiola sinuata*

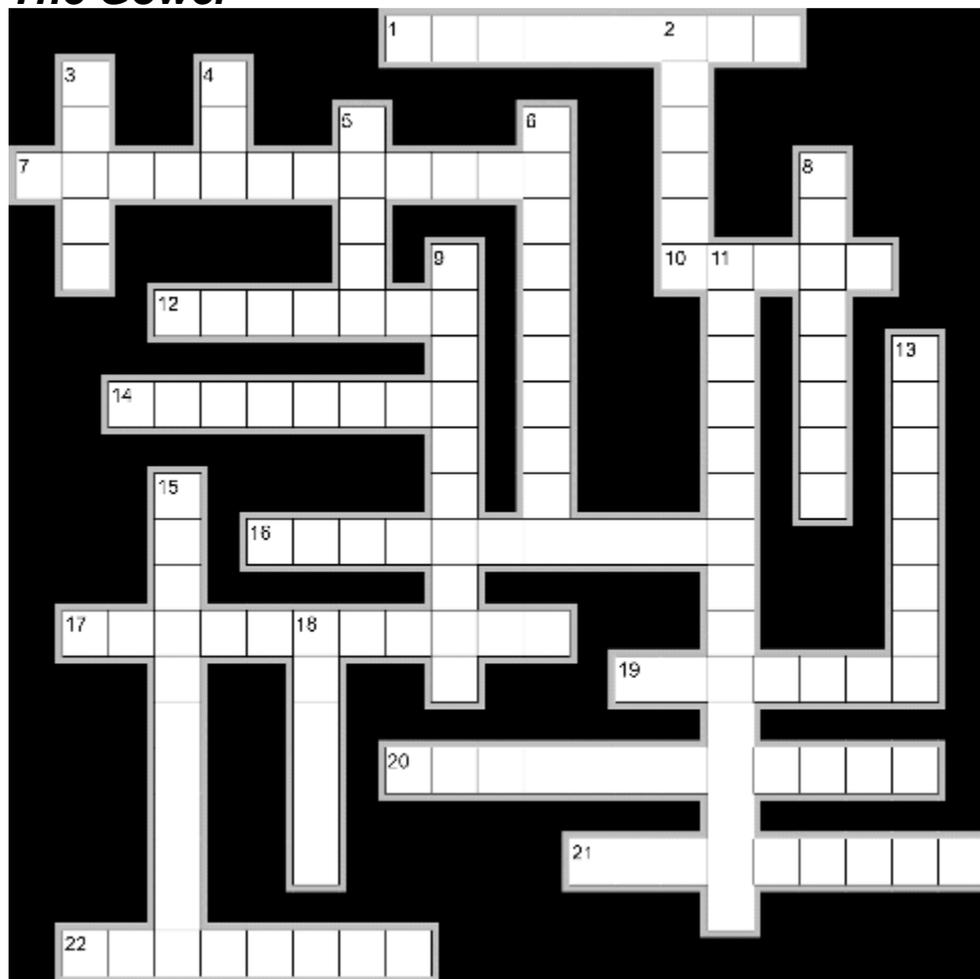
Down

2. Famous bay
3. Annelids head
4. A very special place for botany
5. Means 'pure'
6. Compiler of the first flora
8. Spurge from Dorset
9. *Clinopodium acinos*
11. Small Restharrow
13. Contained the 'Red Lady'
15. Spring Squill
18. Frugality



FdipenCrossword.com

The Gower



FdipenCrossword.com

The Back Page

Summer Meetings

- Sat, 17 Mar 2012 Caen Locks, Jane Brown
- Mon, 23 Apr 2012 Lower Moor Farm/Clattinger Farm,
Paul Darby/Catherine Hosie
- Sat, 28 Apr 2012 AM: Clouts Wood and Markham.
PM: Quidhampton Wood and
Bicknoll Castle, Richard Aisbitt
- Mon, 7 May 2012 Porton Ranges, Anne Appleyard
- Fri, 18 May 2012 Stonehill Wood, Paul Darby
- Sat, 26 May 2012 Pear Tree Hill, Rosemary Duckett
- June 16 - 20 The Brecklands, Norfolk
- Thur, 28 June 2012 Ramsbury Water Meadows,
Dave Green
- Sun, 8 July 2012 Park Bottom and Sherrington Down,
Pat Woodruffe
- Thur, 19 July 2012 Sidbury Hill, near Tidworth,
Rosemary Duckett and Jenny Amor
- Mon, 6 Aug 2012 AM: Oxford Botanic Gardens,
Dr Alison Foster
PM: Harcourt Arboretum
- Fri, 17 Aug 2012 Pewsey Allotments, Jane Brown
- Sat, 25 Aug 2012 Cholderton Estate, Sue Fitzpatrick
- Sun, 9 Sept 2012 Plaitford and West Wellow
Commons (VC8), Dave Green
- Thur, 20 Sept 2012 Clatford Arboretum, Jack Oliver
- Sat, 20 Oct 2012 Bentley Wood, Salisbury Natural
History Society (joint meeting)
PM: Bentley Wood,
Pat Woodruffe

For details, see our meetings leaflet or the Wiltshire Botanical Society web site at <http://www.wiltsbotsoc.co.uk>

You can download this newsletter (and other recent newsletters) *in colour* from <http://www.southwilts.com/site/WBS/Newsletters.htm>

Wiltshire Botanical Society Committee

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Tim Kaye	Treasurer and Membership	07980 863 577	timdankaye@hotmail.com
Pat Woodruffe	Meetings Secretary	01794 884436	pmw.bentley@waitrose.com

Future meetings

Did you enjoy a particular meeting? Do you know a nice site to visit? Please suggest ideas for meetings or talks. Contact Pat Woodruffe by writing to:

Anchorsholme, Hop Gardens
Whiteparish, Nr. Salisbury
Wilts SP5 2ST

or by phone or e-mail (01794 884436,
pmw.bentley@waitrose.com)

Editors Corner

It's good to see the Atlas Updating Project getting underway. You will see from the article on pages 7/8 that there are a number of 10-kilometre squares (hectads) without "guardians". Would you like to take on a square? Guardians will appreciate help with recording. Would you like to take part? Contact Sharon if you want to get involved.

Winter is a somewhat lean for botanists,, but we have still had some very enjoyable walks with a pub lunch along the way. Also there were a couple of splendid indoor meetings. Thanks to the meeting organisers, to speakers, and to the worthy people who have sent in reports for this newsletter. We have also had a couple of delightful extra articles - "Mistletoe" and "Garden Weeds". Thanks to Barbara Last and Gwyneth Yerrington for these.

I could not fit a crossword in the last issue, but have included the solution to Tim's "Flora Mini" puzzle and a new one relating to the Welsh Gower peninsula.

Please send any items for the summer newsletter (issue 40) by 19 September 2012. Post to Richard Aisbitt, 84 Goddard Avenue, Swindon, Wilts SN1 4HT, or email to richard@theaisbitts.co.uk

Other News

Our Botanical Recorder, Sharon Pilkington's annual reports about plant life in Wiltshire for the WSBRC can be found at: <http://www.wsbr.org.uk/YourRecords/CountyRecorder/plantandfern/PageTemplate.aspx>