

SUSSEX BOTANICAL RECORDING SOCIETY

Sec./Treas. Mrs.K.W.Amoore, 18 West View Court, Steyne Road,
Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1EU.

NEWSLETTER No.20 - January 1986

Dear Member,

President's Message. For the Society 1985 ended with sad news, and I am very sorry to report that Tom Oaten, our Chairman, died on November 21st. When the Sussex Flora Society, which had been formed for the recording for the Sussex Plant Atlas, was disbanding in 1979 when the atlas was ready for publication, it was through Tom's encouragement that the S.B.R.S. was founded in its place. Tom was insistent that the interest and good companionship of the recording group should continue. There was general support for this from the recorders, and Tom was unanimously elected as Chairman of the newly formed Recording Society - and the S.B.R.S. has flourished under Tom's guidance and Chairmanship. Tom will be very sadly missed by all his friends, but remembered with gratitude and affection for his kindly sense of humour, his skills with detail and the microscope, and his enjoyment of the countryside. We send our sincere sympathy to Jo and to their family.

Another sad loss was Graham Elms, who was a member of both Societies from the early years, and Hon.Auditor of S.B.R.S. Graham, with Muriel, was a very regular attender at meetings and always a cheerful and helpful companion. Graham will be remembered for his good humour on field meetings and, although he described himself as the non-botanist of the Elms partnership, Graham had a good eye for plants. With his good humour he added to the enjoyment of field meetings, and often to the winter meetings too with his good photography. We send our sympathy to Muriel and to her family also.

Just as the year ended we lost yet another member with the death of Ron Boniface. Ron's association with Sussex botany stretched from his early days when his family lived in Eastbourne, and he had a deep knowledge of Sussex plants. Quiet and unassuming, Ron was a most accurate and meticulous botanist. He had a special interest in finding old records; often he would continue looking for a plant at a recorded site long after the less dedicated had abandoned the search, and many times his persistence would be rewarded with success. Ron is listed as a contributor to the 1937 Wolley-Dod Flora of Sussex, and, while the recording for the Sussex Plant Atlas was in progress Ron prepared a Checklist of Sussex Plants in which he listed the less common Sussex plants with notes on their distribution and sightings. Although Ron moved away from Sussex he came to many of our meetings and we shall miss him as a most authoritative Sussex botanist. Our sympathy goes to Ron's family.

The seventh Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, March 15th 1986 at Staplefield Village Hall (on B2114, Handcross to Cookfield road, TQ277279) at 2.00 p.m. The business will include the adoption of the accounts, the fixing of the subscription for 1987 and the election of Officers and committee for 1986/7. Our Rules require that all Officers and Committee retire annually, but there are no restrictions on length of service, and all are eligible for re-election. The present holders are: President Mrs.Briggs, Chairman vacant, Sec./Treas. Mrs.K.W.Amoore, Mr.A.Hoare (Field convener for E.Sussex) Mr.R.Stern (Field convener for W.Sussex), Mrs.P.Donovan and Miss G.Barter. All nominations, with the consent of the nominee should reach me by March 15th.

As last year, it has been decided not to invite a speaker, so, after the business there will be informal discussion, and, if time allows, members'

Subscription for 1986. This is now due. It may be sent to me, or given to me at the A.G.M. as in the past. It remains unchanged at £2 for one and £3 for two at one address, thanks to the very successful outcome of our Bring and Buy and Lunch Delicacies at the Get-together, which brought in over £150.

Memorial Walk for Tom Oaten. Mrs. Oaten and her family have had the very kind thought of a spring ramble as a memorial for Tom. This will be on Sunday May 25th. Assemble at Staplefield Village Hall at 2.00 p.m. for an approx. 2-hour walk through the woodlands for late spring and early summer flowers, and the many ferns which will be at their best. On return to the Hall, the Oatens have invited us to tea. For catering they will need to know the numbers, and we will count these at the A.G.M. any member not coming to the A.G.M. who would like to join "Tom's Walk" please let Arthur Hoare know before May 19th. (Mr. A.G. Hoare, 159 St. Mary's Drive, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex, RH10 3BG.)

Field Meetings for 1986

<u>Date and Leader</u>	<u>Place and Purpose</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>
* May 17 Rod Stern	Brightling Forest (Forestry Commission)	Cross Roads N. of Observatory 1 mile W. of Brightling Village (TQ 672 210)
May 25	Tom Oaten Memorial Walk	see above
June 4 Mary Briggs	Arundel Wildfowl Reserve	Reserve Car Park (TQ 020 081)
June 18 K. Amore	Mount Caburn	Lay-by at highest point of uncl. road W. of Glyndebourne (TQ 449 110)
July 12 Rod. Stern	Stedham Common (S.T.N.C. Reserve)	Iping Common Car Park (SU 853 220)
Aug. 2 Breda Burt	Rother Valley (Joint with Kent Field Club)	I den, by new bridge over R. Rother on B2082 (TQ 914 252)
Aug. 31 A.G. Hoare	Tilgate Forest a.m. Hedgécourt Pond (p.m.)	Lay-by at end of Parish Lane, Pease Pottage (TQ 285 333)
Sept. 14 K. Amore(am) Alan Bowley Warden (pm)	Downs above Jevington (am) Lullington Heath (pm)	Jevington Car Park (TQ 563 013)

Note: Morning walk will continue straight on to Lullington Heath. If only coming for afternoon Park on uncl. road N. of Litlington by Lullington Court (TQ525026) and allow 20 minutes to walk to Winchester Pond (marked on map) by 2.00 p.m. (TQ 540 019).

All Meetings start at 10.45 a.m. Bring packed lunch.

Enclosed, some notes from our Recorders.

Yours sincerely,

K.W. AMOORE
(Hon. Sec./Treas.)

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April 20

Or R. B. H. Rowlands Castle