



# Sussex Botanical Recording Society



## NEWSLETTER

No. 47

January 1999

### President's Message

With my good wishes to you for the New Year I am sending the first of no doubt many reminders that 1999 is the FINAL YEAR of field work for the New Atlas 2000. After October 1999 no more records can be accepted for the Atlas - and Alan and Paul will need the bulk of next year's records in the summer to have time to process them.

Many of you have been recording regularly in one or two selected 10km squares, giving us good totals for most Sussex squares, but some of these numbers are not as high as might be expected from our large membership. In 1999 we ask you not only to visit squares with lower totals if possible - there will be a map showing the totals at the March meeting - but also when out walking **anywhere** in Sussex away from your recording 'patch', to please note the plants and send the records with the usual details to Paul or Alan. It is surprising how a fresh pair of eyes can often spot plants which have been overlooked by others - many plant-hunters have a particularly good eye for certain groups of plants - and now with our computerised records checking is quick, so receiving duplicate sightings is not a problem, but can often be helpful as confirmation, updating and for filling in gaps.

I hope that for you 1999 will include enjoyable and interesting recording, and

Happy Hunting in 1999

Mary Briggs

\* \* \* \* \*

### Chairman's Note

#### Biodiversity Action Plans

Following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the UK government produced a Biodiversity Action Plan (1995 Biodiversity: the UK Steering Group Report). This national BAP lists many habitats for which Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and species for which Species Action Plans (SAPs) have to be prepared.

In addition, local BAPs were expected to be produced, based on local authority areas or regions. It is likely that action may be taken to implement some plans more effectively at local rather than national level. Furthermore, local plans may include habitats and species which are not in the national BAP but which are of particular importance in the local area concerned.

In 1996, the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership was set up. Although SBRS is not one of the partners, we are being kept informed of progress and can provide information and guidance in respect of plants. HAPs

have been prepared for Lowland Heathland and for Reedbeds, and in course of preparation are Chalk Grassland, Hedgerow, Floodplain Grassland and several others. The initial list of species being considered for SAPs include Black Poplar, Spiked Rampion, Pheasant's-eye and some mosses such as *Rhynchostegium rotundifolium* which grows on one tree at Wilmington and is otherwise known only from one other site in Britain.

Apart from the fact that proper recognition is being given to habitats of importance for plants and to rare and possibly threatened species, funding for conservation measures prescribed in the BAPs is likely to be provided on a scale which was not available previously.

Rod Stern

### In This Issue

President's Message	1
Chairman's Note	1
Hon. Secretary's Note	1
Tips on tips - Luzula	2
Hybrid Bluebells	2
Atlas 2000 recording	3
Are you there, Fallopia?	3
National Trust Properties	4
Variety on the verges	4
Judge Done & his notebooks	5
Ophrys x pietzschii in Sussex	6
Field Meetings 1998	7 - 10
Abutilon theophrasti	7
Bulbous species	8
Obituaries	11 - 12
Field Meetings 1999	13

### Hon. Secretary's Notes

Dates for your diary 1999

The **AGM** will be held at Staplefield Village Hall at 2.00 pm. on Saturday 20th March 1999. Tea will be available as usual.

The **Autumn Get-together** will be at Staplefield Village Hall at 10.00 am. on Saturday 23rd October 1999. Lunch (traditionally Jacket potatoes and soup) will be available.

Louise Matcham

## TIPS ON TIPS: MORE ON LUZULA IDENTIFICATION

Following Alan Knapp's note on the identification of *Luzula forsteri* and *L. pilosa* in the May 1998 Newsletter, Elizabeth Norman sends in this interesting observation:

*L. pilosa* has a small swelling at the tip of each leaf. *L. forsteri* does not. This swelling is quite easily detectable if you run your thumb and first finger along the leaf to the tip. No lens needed!

I have found this 'tip' to be very reliable. I think I got it from Joan Hall when we were recording for the Hall's *Sussex Plant Atlas*. It is also given by Tom Cope in his article on *Luzula* in *A Guide to Some Difficult Plant Groups* published by the Wild Flower Society in 1990.

Elizabeth Norman

## ARE SUSSEX BLUEBELLS HYBRIDS ?

At the BSBI AGM in May '98, Tim Rich was telling us that a large percentage of the Bluebells in Britain are now *Hyacinthoides x variabilis*, the hybrid between the native Bluebell *H. non-scripta* and the bluebell grown in gardens which used to be *H. hispanica*, but is now more likely to be the hybrid too. We wonder if this applies to bluebells in Sussex also? The three can be easily distinguished. Tim and Ken Page have given permission for us to reproduce below the table of characters which Ken prepared for Tim's *Plant Crib 1998*.

When you are out and about at bluebell flowering time this spring, could you please make a note of which bluebells you see, and the localities? We would then have a preliminary distribution pattern for the counties. It is likely that *Hyacinthoides* in or near urban areas will be *H. x variabilis*, but we hope that in our famed bluebell woods the plants may still be *H. non-scripta*, even though current thought is that most populations are now contaminated by the hybrids.

Mary Briggs

	<i>H. hispanica</i> (Mill.) Rothm.	<i>H. x variabilis</i> P. D. Sell	<i>H. non-scripta</i> (Mill.) Rothm.
Leaves	(Usually) Broad, 10-35 mm wide	(Usually) Broad, 10-30 mm wide	(Usually) Narrow, 7-15 mm wide
Inflorescence	Not 1-sided; flowers erect or spreading, erect in fruit	Not 1-sided; flowers usually spreading, erect in fruit	1-sided, drooping at tip; flowers drooping, erect in fruit
Perianth	Segments widely spreading, flowers becoming saucer-shaped	Segments moderately spreading, flowers bell-shaped	Segments parallel-sided below, flowers appearing tubular
Tips of perianth segments	Not reflexed	Turned outwards, scarcely reflexed	Distinctly reflexed
Anthers	Blue	Blue, often cream in white and pink flowers	Cream
Outer filaments	Inserted below middle of perianth segment	Inserted just below middle of perianth segment	Inserted just above middle of perianth segment

## Important - Atlas 2000 Recording in 1999

1999 is the last year for Atlas 2000 recording and, although we have been doing reasonably well in Sussex, there is still a lot to do so we need everybody's help to make a final effort to ensure that the recording for both East and West Sussex is as complete as possible. There are many good botanists in Sussex and we ought to be able to do better than we are doing. We therefore have the following requests for recording in 1999.

1. Go out and record - it doesn't matter if you are not finding special or rare plants. There are still many common plants which are under recorded compared to the *Sussex Plant Atlas*. For example we have no records for *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather) from twelve 10km squares for which there are records in the Atlas!
2. We have a strict deadline for receiving records for Atlas 2000 in 1999:

**All 1999 records must be with Alan Knapp for West Sussex and**

**Paul Harmes for East Sussex by OCTOBER 1st 1999 at the latest.**

However, if you wait until then to send in all your 1999 records we simply will not be able to process them and get them to the BSBI in time for inclusion in the Atlas so please send your records in on a regular basis during 1999, ideally every couple of months.

3. Don't assume someone else has sent in a record - this year each of us has been told "Oh - I thought you must have that record already so I haven't sent it in" on at least half a dozen occasions. We would far rather receive a record 10 times than not at all !
4. If at all possible try to do some recording in the less well recorded squares - there will be a map showing the latest figures for the number of records in each 10km square in the 1999 spring Newsletter but you can get a good idea of which squares are under-recorded from the figures in the map included in the 1998 spring Newsletter. With the exception of the coast from Newhaven to Bognor, Billingshurst, Petworth, Crawley and Chichester it appears that a number of our towns and villages are not well recorded so, if you can fit in some urban recording it would be very useful !

We look forward to receiving lots of new records from you all in 1999.

**Alan Knapp and Paul Harmes**

---

### **Are you there, *Fallopia* ?**

Has anyone recorded Copse- bindweed *Fallopia dumetorum* recently? Please let Alan Knapp know if you have seen it in the last two or three years.

## NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

The National Trust is interested in any botanical records the society or its members have for the properties listed below. If any members already have species lists for any of these sites please send them to me and I will forward them to the Trust.

Individuals or groups wishing to record at these sites can obtain a map, defining the boundaries, from me together with the address & telephone number of the National Trust contact whose permission is required for access other than by public footpaths. (Please note Atlas 2000 recording is the top priority this year !)

Black Down	SU9230	Nymans, incl Cow Wood	TQ265294
Durford Heath	SU788256	Pangdean Farm, Newtimber	TQ238118
Fulking Escarpment & Edburton Hill	TQ2411	Southwick Hill & Whitelot Bottom	TQ2407
Marley Common	SU887313	Wolstenbury Hill	TQ238138
Harting: Beacon Hill & Kill Devil Copse	SU8018		

Ron Clough

## VARIETY ON THE VERGES

During 1998, a study was made of the verges beside the Mayfield By-pass, in hectad TQ52. The road was opened in October 1990 and followed the route of a disused railway line. It is about 1.2 miles long, giving a verge length of approximately 2.5 miles. The verges are variable in width, one side being bordered by deciduous woodland and meadows with hedges, and the other mainly consisting of a wide steep bank, quite wet in places.

Whereas the majority of plants mirrored the existing local flora, others were unexpected. A total of 160 - 170 species was recorded, reflecting a wide variety of habitats: woodland, hedgerow, damp areas, grassland, wasteland and railway land.

Trees and shrubs were well represented, including *Acer campestre*, *A. pseudoplatanus*, *Betula pendula*, *Corylus avellana*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Salix caprea*, *Rosa* spp. (including *R. tomentosa*), *Quercus robur* and *Ulex europaeus* - all native to the area. Others had been planted, like *Viburnum opulus*, *Castanea sativa*, *Alnus incana* and *Ulmus x hollandica* (det. P. Davys). Woodland and hedgerow herbs included *Digitalis purpurea*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, *Primula vulgaris* and *Arum maculatum*.

On the damp patches, draining down the steep banks, six species of *Carex*, *Juncus effusus*, *J. inflexus*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Scrophularia auriculata*, *Stachys palustris*, *Stellaria uliginosa* and *Lychnis flos-cuculi* were found.

Grassland plants included *Achillea millefolium*, *A. ptarmica*, *Silene silaus*, *Agrimonia eupatoria*,

*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Cerastium fontanum*, *Daucus carota*, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Lathyrus nissolia*, *L. pratensis*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Primula veris*, *Senecio erucifolius*, *Torilis japonica*, *Trifolium* spp. and at least nine grass species.

Among wasteland and roadside species were *Equisetum arvense*, *Lapsana communis*, *Lamium album*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Picris echioides*, *P. hieracioides*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *P. major*, *Polygonum aviculare*, *Taraxacum officinale*, *Potentilla anserina* and *Verbascum thapsus*.

The 'railway plants' included *Chaenorhinum minus* and *Senecio viscosus*.

Flourishing escapes, all well away from any garden, were *Crocodymia x crocosmiiflora*, *Galega officinalis*, *Foeniculum vulgare*, *Armoracia rusticana*, *Echinops sphaerocephalus*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Melissa officinalis*, *Buddleja davidii* and *Vinca major*.

The 'surprise' plants were some more usually found on chalk and we concluded that they must have come in with imported soil - *Blackstonia perfoliata*, *Bryonia dioica*, *Silene alba* and *Ligustrum vulgare*.

Road verges are not the most pleasant places to botanise, with constant fumes and noise, but the effort is worthwhile to find such a wide variety of mainly common plants in places often passed at speed, without a thought for the treasures which may be lurking alongside.

Elizabeth Rich and Rachel Nicholson



## JUDGE DONE AND HIS NOTEBOOKS

Near the end of his life, while he was peacefully ensconced in his house a field away from Chichester Harbour, Judge Done was anxious that his botanical notebooks should not be lost to posterity. He made inquiries at Woods Mill regarding how the data therein might be made available to future botanists, and this is how two hardback exercise books came into the possession of the Society.

Before going any further it would be as well to be definitive on the matter of the pronunciation of the name: Done rhymes with bone and not with bun. I can imagine the second Mrs. Done - well known in her day to the inhabitants of West Wittering as an avid gardener - bristling with indignation if anyone had shown ignorance about the vowel sound in her husband's name. (History does not, alas, record his preferred rendering of the word 'scone'). But now the ashes of the good judge rest in West Wittering churchyard, close to the stile in the western wall, not far from the clumps of *Iris foetidissima* and the rosettes of *Salvia verbenaca* which he appreciated in their season.

W.E.P. Done was born on 10th March 1883 in Groombridge. After education at Elizabeth College Guernsey and Pembroke College Oxford he proceeded to a career in the law, being called to the bar in 1910. Legal battles were laid temporarily aside in September 1914, however, with the outbreak of the Great War when Done joined the Royal Sussex Regiment as an officer. He also put aside the personal diary in which he had been collecting records of the flora of the Groombridge area since 1904; no further data were added to this, the first of the two notebooks now in the keeping of the Society.

With the second notebook history moves forward to 1935 and the scene moves westwards from v.c. 14 to v.c. 13. A property on the edge of West Wittering was purchased as a holiday home. It was on the new Roman Landing estate, whose developers were pressing buyers to give suitably Roman names to their houses. The Judge was not to be won over: preferring our Saxon ancestors for their character if not their plumbing, he chose 'Westringes', the Saxon name for the settlement. And it was in 'Westringes' - suitably extended - that Judge Done eventually took up permanent residence.

Not that botany was the Judge's only interest, for I should mention his very readable history of the Selsey peninsula, *Looking Back in Sussex* ('The

story of the Manhood and West Wittering down to Domesday'), published in 1953, and the less easily come-by *Chichester as The Romans Called It* which followed some four years later. There was also a monograph on the parish church of St Peter and St Paul, West Wittering.

Judge Done's second notebook is more familiar to me than the first, by reason of its assemblage of records for the Chichester area which beg to be re-found. The format uses a double page with columns giving for each species the botanical name, the English name, the habitat, months of flowering, an assessment of frequency (apparently) within the geographical bounds of the project, and finally locations. One entry will exemplify the layout: '*Trifolium suffocatum*/ Dense-flowered Trefoil/ gravelly places by the sea/ 5-6/ v. rare/ coast path, Snow Hill, W. Wittering.' More common plants lack locations; the rarest attract the year of discovery.

The title page of this notebook, *Flora of Chichester and District*, suggests the geographical scope of the project without actually being precise. In fact the Judge ranges west as far as Thorney (*Polypogon monspeliensis*, for example), north to Stansted (*Epipactis violacea*), and in an eastward sweep connecting Racton (*Petasites hybridus*), Harting Hill (*Campanula trachelium*), Cocking (*Viscus album*), Bignor (*Sambucus ebulus*), and Bury Hill (*Atropa belladonna*) but then retreating westwards past Rewell Wood (*Lithospermum officinale*) and Hainaker Hill (*Marrubium vulgare*) without apparently returning to the coast until, after leaping Aldingbourne Rife (*Lythrum salicaria*), he reaches Pagham sandhills (*Filago minima*). (The above examples, including *Trifolium suffocatum*, all have very recent sightings in these places, though there are fears that the *Polypogon* may have disappeared from Thorney).

Although it would be fair to observe that there are few records gathered in the notebook to excite the botanist with a craving for the sensational (perhaps the undated *Melampyrum arvense* at West Wittering might quicken his or her pulse!), there is much here to thrill more subtly - and much, inevitably, to dismay when the losses due to building, drainage and agriculture are calculated. Yet in contrast to the untiring South-westerly gales, perhaps the wind of change has blown less violently across the Selsey peninsula than elsewhere. For a very large proportion of the species of this piece of coast and countryside well worked by Done

remain. Even on the Judge's old lawn I saw, some five years ago, the *Spiranthes spiralis* which he had recorded there; the bald entry 'lawn at Westringes, West Wittering' does not do justice to the excitement that surely accompanied the first sighting.

The last addition to the Wittering notebook is 1972; Judge Done died in 1976. He was correct in his assumption that the notebooks contained material of value. Looking through their pages, it is striking how much of interest there is for the local observer of plants. Should we not each be keeping careful notebooks for the pleasure and education of future generations? Even a small piece of research such as this tends to raise many more questions than it answers. For instance I am unable to account for the gap of twenty-one years between the two extant notebooks. Was there another list of records begun after military service? Was all botanical activity suspended because of commitment to career? There was one daughter by his first

marriage - did family life absorb these years? Was it the floristic richness of West Wittering and area which re-awakened a dormant enthusiasm? For me even more tantalising is the possibility of a tenuous Arnold connection. E. C. Arnold, an energetic naturalist, taught at Elizabeth College Guernsey until 1899 (before bringing both natural history and rugby football to Eastbourne College); could the young Done's interest in plants really have been fostered or even sparked by the Rev Dr Frederick Arnold's nephew?

#### Acknowledgement

Our president has many talents but one of the happiest is that of sifting thoughtfully the many and varied items which come into her hands and ensuring that each gem reaches an individual who will appreciate it. This is how I have had the pleasure of coming to know, through his notebooks, William Edward Pears Done.

Nick Sturt

---

### OPHRYS X PIETZSCHII IN SUSSEX

The hybrid orchid *Ophrys apifera* Huds. x *O. insectifera* L., (*Ophrys x pietzschii* Kämpel), was first produced by artificial cross-pollination in the wild at Halle in East Germany in 1962. Karl Pietzsch used the pollinia of *Ophrys insectifera* to fertilise *Ophrys apifera*. Three plants flowered in 1967, but eventually disappeared after 1975.

The first naturally occurring hybrid was found in Leigh Woods near Bristol (v.c. 6) in 1968, where it flourished for a number of years before it in turn disappeared. Until now that has been the only known natural population in Europe.

During a routine survey of a population of *Ophrys insectifera* in a nature reserve in West Sussex in June 1998, the warden noticed one plant with flowers which, although clearly related to *O. insectifera*, were certainly not 'normal'.

The single plant was growing on a road verge bordered by scrub, the underlying soil being chalk. The spike carried seven flowers. The most striking feature was the convex, maroon labellum, which carried an unreflexed appendage. The base of the labellum was marked with a broad square border, and there was a blue band across the distal labellum. The outer perianth segments were noticeably broader than those of *O. insectifera*, and were edged with red. No *Ophrys apifera* were found in the immediate vicinity, but they are known to grow nearby.

Opinions were sought from a number of sources, and there was general agreement that this was indeed the hybrid *Ophrys apifera* x *O. insectifera*. Comparison with photographs of the Leigh Woods plants confirmed this opinion.

This would appear to be the second natural occurrence of the hybrid in Britain - indeed in Europe - and the first in Sussex.

David Lang

## East Sussex Field Meetings 1998

Steady rain for most of the day was the main feature of the first meeting at Fairlight Glen in June. Six members braved it to join Paul Harnes in a search for *Equisetum hyemale*, which was last seen there about 50 years ago. Work on coastal defences over many years is thought to have destroyed the site. Dutch or Rough Rush has other common names including Shave Grass and Scourwort, the latter possibly deriving from its use as a primitive form of sandpaper prior to the 19th century. The stem, which contains silica, was dried, cut in short sections and these were opened out for use as abrasive. The recent exhibition of Grinling Gibbons wood carvings at the V&A showed how effective it was on the lime wood that he mainly used.

A walk up the old railway line north of Heathfield on June 28th was just the right time to see *Pyrola minor* in flower and flourishing. The clump was about 18 - 20 inches in diameter and spreading but no other plants were seen nearby. Rumour has it that the track is to be up-graded which would put the plants in danger. Several new records were added to TQ52 including *Epipactis helleborine*, *Neottia nidus-avis* and *Anacamptis pyramidalis*.

The meeting at Roedean on July 4th was joint with the BSBI and Paul Harnes covered a lot of ground in one evening with visits to Woodingdean, Hollingbury and Brighton sea-front (to see the Maidenhair Spleenwort). Other

interesting plants included *Matthiola incana*, *Orobanche minor* var *maritima*, *Lathyrus tuberosus* and *Prunella laciniata* x *vulgaris*. The next day was spent at Southease investigating the ditches and Arthur Hoare's report on this meeting can be found on page 9.

In rather unseasonable weather for mid-June members went for an evening walk round what must be the last of The Crumbles, Eastbourne. Tons of shingle have been moved and the area levelled with huge drainage pipes in place for ? housing development. The 20 or so Bee orchids that unexpectedly appeared this year where they had not been seen before and plants like *Hieracium grandident* and *Cynosurus echinatus* will surely be lost. Despite the upheaval there was still plenty of colour from the abundant *Echium vulgare* and *Certranthus ruber*. Denis Vinall recorded a total of 168 species on this and a previous visit.

The meeting in Darwell Wood on August 9th took place in brilliant sunshine. Its main aim was to check the state of *Dipsacus pilosus*. There were only 13 plants and these were rather small, perhaps on account of the wet summer. Typical plants of the woodland rides included *Sedum telephium*, *Euphrasia anglica*, *Carex viridula*, *Luzula sylvatica* and abundant *Mentha arvensis*, and Peter Davys pointed out to members a Wild Service tree with a girth of 14 feet.

Pat Donovan

---

## ABUTILON THEOPHRASTI

*Abutilon theophrasti* appeared spontaneously in a greenhouse in Slinfold, (TQ13) in 1974; it was then found some time later at Magham Down (TQ61), when it was transplanted into a garden where it set good seed. In 1982 a strong plant was found in the garden flowering well. Since that time there had been no records of it from Sussex, until in 1997 again in Slinfold during a SBRS field meeting. And again in 1998 when it was found growing as an arable weed in a cornfield near Bolney (TQ22). The field was adjacent to a farmyard with free-range chickens.

Breda Burt came across this *Abutilon* in 1976 in East Kent and suspects that it arrived there with manure. Its appearance in a potato field in Gloucester in 1997 was also attributed to an application of chicken manure. An interesting account of it was when some cottages in Herts. were bulldozed and it appeared on the site. Workers in a nearby Soya Foods factory used to live in the cottages and it is presumed that they carried away waste material either as chicken feed or perhaps as garden manure. It is possible that the seeds could have remained dormant there for at least 25 years.

*Abutilon theophrasti* is a native of southern Asia but has become naturalised in most of the warmer parts of the world. It turns up in Britain fairly frequently but only as a casual. In the warmer areas of the USA, where it is a common weed, the velvety, tomentose, boldly veined leaves have been used to pattern butter and pastry giving rise to the vernacular names of Butter-print and Pie-maker; in this country it is known as Velvetleaf.

Arthur G. Hoare

## West Sussex Field Meetings 1998

At our first meeting of the year, eighteen members met at Watersfield on the afternoon of April 22nd to look at spring annuals of sandy soils. We started on the recreation ground, which had just been mown and was actually being rolled while we were there - but since the plants we sought rarely reached an inch in height all was well. Species recorded included *Moenchia erecta*, *Montia fontana*, *Erophila verna*, *Ornithopus perpusillus* and *Cerastium semi-decandrum*. Fields nearby added *Stellaria pallida*, *Scleranthus annuus* and *Filago vulgaris*. The meeting concluded with delicious tea and shortbread in the beautiful garden of Dr. Pauline Smith, which was much appreciated by all.

On May 16th Rod Stern took us to the Downs above Bignor to record grassland, scrub and woodland at the request of the National Trust. The Trust plans to re-introduce grazing to this area, and will monitor any resultant changes to the flora. We saw an interesting mixture of heathland species such as *Calluna vulgaris* and *Potentilla erecta* along with calcicoles: *Viola hirta*, *Inula conyzae*, *Linum catharticum* and so on. After lunch pleasantly perched upon Stane Street, we explored Black Jack Wood, which is thought to have been pasture woodland. Although it had been badly damaged by the 1987 storm, we saw a good range of species.

Nick Sturt led us to Rook Cliff at Treyford on May 30th. Sadly the more accessible *Tilia platyphyllos* stools had recently been coppiced, so that not everyone managed to see the trees at their best. Nevertheless, the ground flora of the combe and slopes produced quite a rich collection of species, including *Polygonatum multiflorum* and *Daphne*

*laureola*. After lunch at Terwick, we were dazzled by a set-aside field of multicoloured lupins, which used to be a crop plant in this area. Alan showed us *Stellaria neglecta* in a hedge-bank near the church, and we tried terribly hard (but failed) to convince ourselves that a patch of *Viola tricolor* in a nearby field could be native here. We then botanized our way through beautiful Fyning Moor - a very rich woodland, with *Geum rivale*, *Polygonatum multiflorum* and other delights.

On September 5th Alan Knapp led a meeting in the Shipley area. We saw a wide variety of habitats: the sheep grazed churchyard, river, pasture, arable, woodland, hedges, green lane and verges, and we succeeded in adding a few species to the list for TQ12. *Elymus caninus* grew in spectacularly fine patches along a green lane. The arable weed flora included a number of interesting species, and we recorded both *Kickxia* spp., *Ranunculus sardous* and *Lepidium campestre*. At the end of our walk various members were seen moving at speed towards the cakes on sale at Shipley village fete...

For the last meeting of the year, Rod Stern and Howard Matcham held a bryophyte study meeting at Staplefield, which was attended by eleven members and much enjoyed by all.

There are longer accounts of our other 1998 meetings on pages 9 & 10.

Many thanks to those who led the meetings and, to the landowners who gave permission for us to visit their property.

Frances Abraham

---

## RECORDING BULBOUS SPECIES

One frequently neglected group of plants, when recording, are the spring and autumn bulbous species such as *Crocus*, *Iris*, *Narcissus*, *Hyacinthoides* and *Galanthus*. The main reason for this is the fact that they can flower as early as December (*Galanthus caucasicus*) when most sensible recorders are indoors thinking only of warm summers, or planning holidays.

Our plea is simple. Do look for these species, even if only when you go to the shops and pass a churchyard, or when you walk the dog past or through promising habitats, like copses or old railway lines. If, however, you feel particularly intrepid, do please make special trips.

If you find something you're not sure of (*Galanthus* and *Hyacinthoides* hybridize), either collect and press a specimen or take a photo.

Don't forget the all important colour and habitat notes, send them to one of us, and we will assist all we can.

Finally, please inform us of date and location found, grid reference and especially STATUS. This is vital for the records ('N' native, 'P' planted/deliberately introduced, 'E' established and increasing independently and 'C' casual).

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and we hope many new records are forthcoming. It is vital that you do not leave the reporting of your records until late in 1999, let us have them as you record them, and all by 1st October at the latest.

Paul Harmes and Alan Knapp



**BSBI / SBRS Field trip Southeast,  
Saturday 4th July 1998**

A chorus of Marsh Frogs greeted us as we arrived at our meeting point. After introductions the 25 participants, made up of members from both Societies, were led along a narrow string of fields between the banks of the River Ouse and one of the drainage ditches. The first field had been heavily cattle-grazed but nevertheless many grasses were found, and identified and demonstrated by our leader Paul Harnes. Three *Puccinellias* - *P. distans* (Reflexed Saltmarsh Grass), *P. fasciculata* (Borrer's Saltmarsh Grass) and *P. rupestris* (Stiff Saltmarsh Grass) were soon sorted out. One diligent member discovered a clump of bulbs of *Alopecurus bulbosus* (Bulbous Foxtail) on a clod of earth thrown up by a cow's hoof; the foliage had been grazed very short.

Very soon our attention was drawn to the brook, where here again the marginal vegetation was rather chewed and good plants were hard to find. However fine stands of *Typha angustifolia* (Lesser Bulrush) were seen and much admired. A variety of graptolites appeared from rucksacks and a number of us joined in the aquatic lucky dip, the first plant to be fished being *Ceratophyllum submersum* (Soft Hornwort) with its leaves forked three times. The ditches were not at their best, with large patches of algae coating the surface. Pondweeds were noticeably absent with only *Potamogeton pectinatus* (Fennel Pondweed) being extracted from the tangled mass of *Enteromorpha*.

After lunch further aquatic sites were visited but not before having a close look at *Rosa x andegavensis*, the hybrid between *R. canina* and *R. stylosa*. The rose was previously known from this road verge site and its identity confirmed by Rev. A.L. Primavesi. Two Water-crowfoots *Ranunculus baudotii* (Brackish Water-crowfoot), as one would expect from the brackish waters and *R. circinatus* (Fan Leaved Water-crowfoot) were found. The flowers of *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (Frog-bit) were just beginning to make a show along with the *Nymphoides peltata* (Fringed Water-lily). A number of *Samolus valerandi* (Brookweed) plants were seen in widely scattered patches but our searches for *Carex divisa* (Divided Sedge) were all in vain. Returning to the cars some of the party decided to stay on and go to see *Utricularia australis* (Bladderwort) which last year put on a riotous show. In retrospect this was a wise decision for not only did they see the Bladderwort, albeit not in flower, but also the *Butomus umbellatus* (Flowering Rush) and the elusive *Carex divisa*.

A super day that was enjoyed by all and just what we have come to expect with the expert guidance and enthusiasm of Paul Harnes, our leader on the day.

Arthur G. Hoare

---

**Atlas 2000 Recording Meeting TQ22.  
19th July 1998**

Eight members gathered for this square bashing meeting in an area with a rather limited public access. The morning's efforts were restricted to public footpaths mostly through woodlands. At one point the path bordered Leonardslee Gardens where an unusual *Lysimachia* was spotted; it appeared to be well naturalised in the pond margins just temptingly out of reach. Explaining our curiosity and purpose to a garden visitor a specimen was collected for us and after critical determination *Lysimachia ciliata* (Fringed Loosestrife) was added to our list, not only a new 10km record but I think only the second record for v.c.13. *Rubus sprengelii*, a fairly distinctive looking bramble was seen, this species was demonstrated to us a couple of weeks previously by Paul Harnes.

The afternoon was spent around Slaugham Churchyard and Manor pond, a change of habitat

in a bid to boost numbers. The only new plants added to the list were a few garden escapes in the hedgerow and the emarginate vegetation of the pond made up mainly of *Schoenoplectus lacustris* (Common Club-rush).

After returning to the cars some members expressed the desire to see *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved Bellflower) and *Radiola linoides* (Allseed), these were sought out on a woodland track along with *Scutellaria minor* (Lesser Skullcap); all within a square metre of each other. Not new records but a fitting end to a most enjoyable day in the field.

A total species count of 238 at the end of the day of which only 14 were new to the 10km list.

Arthur G. Hoare

## Field Meeting Chithurst Monastery Wood 6th June 1998

Nick Scott was unfortunately unable to guide the party around the grounds of the monastery but he had arranged for Bruce Middleton, local countryside ranger, to take his place - which he did extremely successfully. About eight SBRS members attended on the sort of warm and sunny morning which has been strangely rare this summer.

In our tour around the woodland and lake margins of the estate belonging to the monastery we had the benefit not only of a map annotated with species by Nick but also Bruce's first-hand knowledge; thus we did not overlook a small stand of *Neottia nidus-avis* and were shown the spot where *Fallopia dumetorum* had appeared last year (although we were unable to find any relics of this). The woodland was comparatively rich with patches where the canopy had opened up and also damp areas as well as the shores of the lake itself; 32 vascular species indicative of ancient woodland were found. Some exotics had clearly been introduced, for example *Sasa palmata*, *Prunus lusitanica* and some mature

conifers which were not identified. After lunch there was a foray outside the grounds of the monastery to look for *Dryopteris aemula* in a site where it was known up to a few years ago, but the plant was not found - possibly the result of a series of dry years or the activities of the Greybeards, a group of motorcyclists of advancing age who (with the owner's permission) had been plunging down a suicidally steep slope where the fern used to grow: this activity has now been curbed, whether by request or through injury to Greybeards I am unable to say.

The fern having eluded us we returned to the monastery land and completed a very enjoyable circuit. Further visits at different times of the year should be able to add significantly to the score on the card of 199 species. Bruce deserves our appreciation for his contribution to the day - which included carrying members' packed lunches in his Landrover!

Nick Sturt

---

## BSBI / SBRS Field Meeting Cissbury Ring Sunday 5th July 1998

The purpose of the third day of the field meeting was to record the flora of Cissbury Ring, an ancient Hill Fort on the chalk of the South Downs near Worthing, at the request of the National Trust who own the site. We were met by Charles Cain of the Trust who was our guide for the day and greatly increased our enjoyment by sharing his knowledge of the area. We started our recording on the steep chalky banks at the NW corner of the Ring where a number of chalk species such as *Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort), *Anthyllis vulneraria* (Kidney Vetch), *Asperula cynanchica* (Squinancywort) were in evidence together with a good range of grasses including *Trisetum flavescens* (Yellow Oat-grass) and *Briza media* (Quaking grass). A number of Eyebrights were collected by Paul Harmes and were taken to the BSBI Records meeting in Lancaster where they were identified by Alan Silverside. It was good to have confirmation of *Euphrasia nemorosa*, and the hybrid *E. nemorosa* x *pseudokerneri* was a pleasing, but not unexpected find given that both parents are present. However the identification of a number of specimens of *Euphrasia confusa* was a quite unexpected bonus as there has only been one previously confirmed record from VC13 and this

was many years ago and many miles away in the NW of the County.

Proceeding toward the southern end of the Ring a rough scrubby area yielded *Atropa bella-donna* (Deadly Nightshade) with both fruit and flowers present. Nearby we were shown a patch of chalk heath containing *Potentilla erecta* (Tormentil), a tiny colony of *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather) and, on a bare patch, some *Aphanes australis* (Slender Parsley-piert). The last two were new Atlas 2000 records for TQ10, a square which is dominated by chalk, urban and maritime habitats. As we returned north past large depressions marking the sites of ancient flint mines, two small specimens of *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) were found - a pleasing sight as it has declined here in recent years due to intense rabbit grazing. Towards the end of the meeting as we descended through a dampish wooded area at the northern tip of the Ring, a number of large plants of *Valeriana officinalis* (Common Valerian) were seen, bringing the total number of species recorded from the National Trust property to 173.

Alan Knapp

## CERES ESPLAN - AN OBITUARY

With regret we report the death in November last year of Ceres Esplan. Ceres botanised in Sussex through most of her long life, describing how her 'interest began when she was five years old and was shown a Bee Orchid growing on the slopes of Cissbury Hill'. Later she explored Sussex plant localities with her parents 'from a bull-nosed Morris Oxford'

Ceres was known to many as Alison Ross, the pen-name which she used for her interesting column of Nature Notes in which she wrote about the natural history of Sussex, week after week for years and years. These were published in the West Sussex Gazette and the Worthing Herald, and through these 'Alison' conveyed her own deep delight in the countryside in all seasons. She wrote occasional articles for the Times, and some natural history books - mainly for children - and hers was also a voice for conservation before this was generally popular or even considered by many.

For a time Ceres lived near Colgate and gained a detailed knowledge of St Leonard's Forest, and

at that time she was an active member of the Horsham Natural History Society. Moving then to Arundel, and later to Amberley, Ceres was for many years the authority on the plants and wildlife of Amberley Wild Brooks. She was involved with the Amberley Society, in the successful opposition to the Wild Brooks pump-drainage scheme in 1978. As a founder member of the Sussex Flora Committee of the Sussex Wildlife Trust from 1966-1972, when this Committee was renamed the Sussex Flora Society, Ceres was active in the recording survey for the *Sussex Plant Atlas*. She wrote the Foreword to the *Atlas* (as Alison Ross) when it was published in 1980. Her great knowledge of plant localities in the counties was continually helpful to newer recorders through the years, and her ready directions and cheerful smile are missed by many wild flower lovers.

We extend our sympathy to Alistair and family.

Mary Briggs

\* \* \* \* \*

## KATHLEEN NORA IRENE PICKARD-SMITH -

The death of Katie Pickard-Smith of Harveys, Glynde at the great age of 96, removes one of the last links with the famous Sussex botanists of the turn of the century. As a girl she knew well such characters as the Rev. Arnold, C. B. Tahourdin, Henry Salt and Lady Davy, but probably the records speak most of her co-operation with Lt. Col. Wolley-Dod, whose monumental *Flora of Sussex* was published in 1937. Katie's knowledge of the plants, not only around Glynde and Lewes, but widely in the County, is evidenced by the large number of entries with the initials of the finder - KP.

Katie was born in the old farmhouse of the Glynde Estate, the daughter of Tom Pickard, the redoubtable Steward of Glynde. By all accounts -and there are many! - Tom was a formidable character, and his daughter inherited much of that spirit. Never one to suffer fools gladly, Katie was a warm hearted and generous friend to many in the world of botany and horticulture. You could rarely leave after a visit without clutching pots of interesting botanical goodies which she had grown.

Katie trained as a musician, playing piano and organ - she was organist at Glynde Church for many years - and owned and ran the Brighton

## AN OBITUARY

Music School, which in those days resided in the old Aeolian hall.

During the Second World War many Canadian soldiers were stationed near Lewes, and Katie met one, Frank Smith, to whom she was happily married for many years until his death in the late 1960's.

Katie's greatest claims to fame lie in the two fields of plants and reptiles. A founder member in 1962 of the Alpine Garden Society, her garden was simply amazing. Amid the apparent chaos, rare and beautiful flowers flourished in a manner they rarely deigned to do for us mere gardeners. It was like walking into a mini-Kew, while the greenhouses overflowed with fabulous plants grown from seed brought back by expeditions to all parts of the world.

Her other skill was in the keeping and rearing of reptiles. Her book *Living with Reptiles* remains one of the best practical guides to keeping reptiles well, and above all contented. One of the first to rear successfully tortoises from the egg in this country, those of us who visited her remember her best by the iguanas which lived around the house. One particular huge and long-lived 'Iggy' resided along the top of a bookcase,

cont....

his favourite spot under a warm lamp. Many visitors thought that he was stuffed, and Katie lost a number of sherry glasses, which dropped from the nerveless fingers of guests, who suddenly found themselves regarded by an extremely lively basilisk stare !

Elizabeth Strangman recounted a typical story of Katie. At a meeting in Vincent Square, she found her in the ladies toilet with a load of tiny terrapins

swimming in the wash-hand basin. These she dried off and popped into her bra, explaining that it was far too hot to leave them at home !

Above all I shall cherish a memory of a superb field botanist, with a mind like a razor and an encyclopaedic knowledge, stimulating and kindly, with a wicked wit. They don't make them like that any more. !

D C Lang

\*\*\*\*\*

## DR J MANNING - AN OBITUARY

Dr J Manning died on 3rd September aged 73. He was a PhD. who was Chief Mathematician for the Shoe and Allied Trades Association where he held a senior research post. He and his wife Eileen moved from Kettering in Northants to Seaford twelve years ago.

In addition to his Natural History interests, John was a very keen and experienced bridge player. He was an active member of the Sussex Wildlife

Trust and worked one day a week at the Seven Sisters Countryside Centre, and he led several countryside walks from there. He was also involved in the Seaford Natural History Society. John contributed many useful plant records and regularly attended SBRS meetings, and we shall miss him particularly at the indoor sessions.

Rod Stern

---

### SBRS Officers

<b>President</b>	Mrs. M. Briggs, 9
<b>Chairman</b>	Mr. R.C. Stern, 1
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Mr. T. Lording, 17
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	Mrs. L. G. Matcham, 2

### County Recorders

<b>East Sussex</b>	Mr. P. A. Harnes, 1
<b>West Sussex</b>	Mrs. M. Briggs, 9 Dr. A. G. Knapp, 3

### Field Meeting Conveners

<b>East Sussex</b>	Mrs. P. M. Donovan, C, Buxton, 1
<b>West Sussex</b>	Miss F. Abraham, T, 3

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Miss F. Abraham, T, 3
--------------------------	-----------------------

### Committee Members

Mr. A. G. Hoare, 15	4
Mr. H. W. Matcham, 21	3
Mr. R. I. Clough, 29	



### **SBRS FIELD MEETINGS 1999**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Saturday March 27th<br>Alan Knapp      | Survey to re-find Daphne mezereum in the Madehurst area. Meet at SW end of lay-by by A29 at Fairmile Bottom at SU983091. We will move on from here in fewer cars.                                 |
| Saturday May 15th<br>Paul Harmes       | Survey of TQ60 for Atlas 2000, especially urban & suburban habitats. Park at TQ646028 on minor road off A259.   |
| Saturday June 5th<br>Pat Donovan       | Re-survey of Burgh Hill Farm SSSI for Atlas 2000. N. of Golden Cross. Park at farm at entrance to grain store at TQ541130.  |
| Saturday June 19th<br>Arthur Hoare     | Survey of TQ12/22 for Atlas 2000 in West Grinstead area. Meet at Downs Link car-park at TQ183225 - turn N. immediately E. of Little Chef on A272.   |
| Saturday June 26th<br>Rachel Nicholson | Survey of TQ62 for Atlas 2000. Meet at entrance to Brightling Mine at TQ675219.   |
| Saturday July 3rd<br>Rod Stern         | Survey of Kingley Vale. Meet at West Stoke at SU824088 - take turning to NW 150m W. of West Stoke church.   |
| Saturday July 10th<br>Helen Proctor    | Survey of Elms Farm, Icklesham, especially aquatic habitats. Park at corner of T-junction at TQ886159. We will move on from here later.   |
| Saturday August 7th<br>Frances Abraham | Survey of SU83/93 for Atlas 2000. Meet at National Trust car-park at SU922306 at S. corner of Tennyson's Lane. We will move on from here after lunch. <b>NB Beware other NT car-parks nearby.</b> |
| Sunday September 5th<br>Nick Sturt     | Joint with Hampshire Flora Group. Survey of SU72 in Rogate area for Atlas 2000. Park in lay-by on N. side of A272 at SU776239.  |
| Sunday September 12th                  | Survey in V.C.14 to record under-worked areas for Atlas 2000. Please ring Pat Donovan in early September for details.   |

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEETINGS START AT 10.45am UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

**ALL THOSE TAKING PART IN SBRS FIELD MEETINGS DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK**

If you have any queries, please contact Pat Donovan (East Sussex) or Frances Abraham (West Sussex).