

Message from President/VC Recorder for West Sussex:

First a reminder of DATE and TIME of Autumn Meeting:

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH at 10.30 a.m.

Staplefield Village Hall

PLEASE NOTE THIS NOW IN YOUR DIARIES AND ON YOUR CALENDARS AS THERE WILL NOT BE ANOTHER NEWSLETTER BEFORE NOVEMBER 16TH

A sample copy of the new recording card and the instructions is sent to you with this newsletter. It is customer designed for Sussex and on behalf of the Society I must first record thanks to Alan Knapp and to Paul Harmes, the designers, who (in consultation with the VC Recorders Breda Burt and Mary Briggs., and also Tim Rich and Chris Preston) spent many hours working on the selection of the species, checking the species numbers, spacing the names on the card and deciding on the instruction notes. Thanks too to Paul's secretary Mrs. Tater, who typed the card.

The idea of a local card came from Tim, who from his experience with the large volume of records from the BSBI Monitoring Scheme realised that as handwritten additional species took more processing time, to have all the most common species in the area printed on the card helps recorders and processors. On this card all the ubiquitous, very common, common and frequent species in Sussex (as described in the Sussex Plant Atlas) and some of the occasional species, are printed; also some species for which more information is required. We aimed for clarity, and I think that you will agree that the printed names on the card are exceptionally clear - good-sized type and spacing and easy to read; those of us who have tried them out have found them easy to use in the field. In this mailing you have a copy of the 'card' on paper, for you to see the selection of species and the recording methods. You can record on this paper copy, but if it is inconveniently flimsy, or when you need more, supplies on card will be available at any of the SBRS field meetings, or by post from :

Mr. P.A Harmes

or Dr A.G. Knapp

Please send a stamped addressed A4 envelope (4 cards 17p)

Area to Record. This can be flexible. For many of us a tetrad is a convenient size for recording. To start the new scheme could we ask every member to fill in a card (or this paper copy) for the tetrad in which they live - or one close by - this year? Records can also be sent in for a 10 km or for a defined site. Site records are very valuable for conservation information, but if recording a site which overlaps more than one 10km, please use a new card for each new 10 km. Odd "passing though" records

can be sent in list form (as before) - but please remember if they are less common plants, to give not only the locality but grid ref. and other details too.

We shall need to have records in 10 kms, but as the records will be going into computers these will be programmed so that records which you send in tetrads, in 10 kms, or from list with grid refs and localities can all be incorporated into 10km records when required.

Timespan of Recording. During the remaining years of this century we plan to collect the Sussex records for an updated Atlas of the British Flora, and for this new survey all records are to be post - 1987. So all plants are to be recorded again (to check that those that were common from 1966-80 in the Sussex Plant Atlas are still common now). Monitoring Scheme records will be included, so priority should be given to those 10kms not covered by that Scheme. The records that you sent in 1989 & '90 will also be gathered in.

Scarce and Rare Plants. More information is needed on our less common plants. Some of these are printed (with the common plants) in the list on the back of the card, but marked '+' (= more information please - to be known as the 'plus plants'). Those species which are listed as nationally scarce in the current BSBI Scarce Plants Survey (and occur in Sussex) are plus plants; also plus plants are some local species for which further information is required. For these plus plants, and for any species not listed on the back of the card please fill in the columns on the front of the card. In the end column "other details", the number of plants seen or size of colony would be very helpful. You will see some requests for new information habitats, coverage etc., in the boxes on the front of the card, if these seem daunting at first, do not be put off - most important:

- i) to cross off the sp. on the back of the card (see note on correct crossing on instruction notes)
- ii) to send me the details of the rare and scarce plants

Tetrad Lettering Please remember to use the new (1990) tetrad lettering. The letters are printed on the front of each card, but as an additional reminder this is printed again below :

BSBI Tetrad Lettering

As from the beginning of 1990 all recording in East and West Sussex should use the tetrad lettering adopted as standard by the BSBI. The letters identifying the tetrads in a 10km square according to this system are shown below.

E	J	P	U	Z
D	I	N	T	Y
C	H	M	S	X
B	G	L	R	W
A	F	K	Q	V

Return of Cards At the end of the summer please bring your cards to the November meeting or send to

East Sussex VC 14: Mrs. Breda Burt, Boonsfield Farm, Playden, Rye, TN31 7QA

West Sussex VC 13: Mrs. Mary Briggs, 9 Arun Prospect, Pulborough, RH20 1AL.

(Central Sussex to either)

and meanwhile any recording queries to : Mary Briggs, Breda Burt, Paul Harmes or Alan Knapp

With best wishes for a splendid summer's recording on the new Sussex Supercard!

Mary Briggs

Chairman's Notes

Longer-standing members, especially those who were members of the old Sussex Flora Society, will be sorry to hear of the death on 26.3.91 of Miss Margaret Ash. Although not active in recent years, she contributed to much useful botanical recording work in East Sussex and regularly attended meetings including our indoor ones.

Woodland Survey. This is now getting under way again with Paul Harmes as Convener. The new SBRS recording card is to be used, which is much simpler than the cards used for woodland surveying previously. I hope that members will carry out surveys of woodlands at least in their own areas (having obtained permission where necessary from owners or agents).

Nature Conservancy Council. This has ceased to exist as such, and is now split into three - for Scotland, Wales and England. There is also a Joint Nature Conservation Committee with a few staff at Peterborough. The English organisation is known as English Nature; as far as Sussex is concerned, there is still the local office at Lewes with the same staff as before.

Large-leaved Lime. BSBI members will be interested to see the note on pp.10 and 11 in BSBI News No.57 by Francis Rose. I hope that SBRS members will help in the further survey work which he indicates is required.

Conservation work. The possibility of members helping in special botanical projects was greeted with some interest when I mentioned it at the AGM. If any member knows of plants which need to have, for example, clearance work round them which could be done by a few SBRS volunteers, the Committee would be glad to try and organise this, perhaps as a winter job if appropriate.

Rod Stern.