



Sussex Botanical Recording Society

Newsletter

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Chairman's Message

An unforeseen bonus from preferring my own laptop at the AGM was that Elisabeth and I were able to take home and enjoy all over again that evening Brad's lovely presentation on the bryophytes of Ashdown Forest. It was one component in a very vibrant AGM where new members mingled with 'the regulars' and more senior stalwarts not seen for a while were greeted with hugs. As usual there were exhibits and book sales and home-made cakes; jars of boutique marmalade sent in by David Donovan were snapped up; choice antipodean plants were offered by Judy Clark; and Elisabeth's desiccated remnants of last year's flowering plants from Arundel proved to be a challenging quiz. I write this on the day after and I imagine Helen is still recovering from her heroic multi-tasking – not only Director of Refreshments and East Sussex Field Meetings Convener but also providing full and fascinating feedback on her continuing Churchyard Survey – I encourage you to sign up if you have not already done so. It was very much a team effort, of course, and it felt especially good to have our distinguished President at the helm.

There have been changes to the Committee, with three very long-serving officers retiring: you can read about Arthur, Paul and Howard elsewhere in this Newsletter. Filling the breach we now have Judith Linsell and Peter Smith, members whom we have for some time felt have much to offer the Society; and qualifying under the constitution by reason of being BSBI Assistant Recorder is Matthew Berry – but we should have head-hunted him in any case! We continue to manage without an Honorary Secretary for the time being by sharing out the various tasks among us and by taking advantage of Kathryn for communication with the membership at large, not to mention leaning gently on a sun-tanned Roy (still basking in memories of Sri Lanka) to take the AGM minutes. The other members of the cast are all familiar to you, I hope, whether it is Trevor relieving you of your subscription with a smile, Frances compiling her ever-interesting Newsletters, Brad keeping the website buzzing, or Helen wearing all her different hats with panache. And I need not point out that our two professional botanists, Ruth and

David, together bring their expertise and rigour to inform, guide and enhance our various activities.

*

A few weeks later, *Prunus* species are festooned with blossom along roadsides and the Editor's copy must be sent without further dithering. First the Brimstones then the Orange-tips appear, and Spring heralds the start of the field meetings season – for vascular plants at least, since back in February at Woods Mill our President revealed to fourteen of us the fascination of mosses and liverworts. Whether plants lower or higher are your particular fancy, I look forward to seeing you in the field and to hearing about your interesting surveys and exciting finds as the Summer unfolds.

Nick Sturt

Secretarial Notes

Saturday 28th October 2017

The Autumn Get-together will be held at Staplefield Village Hall. The doors will be open from 10.00 a.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 10.30, and will include a talk. Please remember to bring a packed lunch; tea, coffee and cakes will be available. Members are invited to bring books and plants for sale, any items of interest or specimens for display, and digital photographs to show in the afternoon. Offers of homemade cakes are always welcome.... They are greatly enjoyed.

Saturday 3rd March 2018

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.00 p.m. at Staplefield Village Hall. After the AGM, there will be information on this year's field meetings, and details of interesting records received in 2017. Please bring your digital photographs of Sussex plants to show to the meeting, which will finish with tea and cake. The hall will be available from 1.30 p.m. if you wish to bring any books or plants for sale.

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Treasurer's Note

Following preparation of the Society's Accounts for 2016 I may now update you as to the state of the Flora Fund, which stood on 31st December 2016 at £34,239. Thank you all for such a marvellous effort, with especial thanks to those members who have carried out surveys and arranged for a donation in lieu of the work to be sent to me for the Flora Fund: the Hastings' Ladies and Helen Proctor continue to have been very assiduous in this department. It appears that further donations to the Flora Fund are not at present required as we are in an advanced state of negotiation with a prospective publisher and it looks as if we have sufficient funds to finance the project.

Subscriptions for 2017 remain as for 2016 i.e. £8 for an individual and £11 for two people at the same address and receiving one copy of the mailings as they arise. Subscriptions may be sent to me at my home address or paid at the Autumn Get-together in October. If anyone has not paid their subscription for 2016 or earlier, or if you are uncertain of your subscription status, please contact me and I shall let you know. Please now so do if you wish to remain a member.

Trevor Lording

BSBI and SBRS Records

Shortly after the March AGM we were informed by Tim Rayner that due to unforeseen circumstances he would not be able to take on the post of BSBI Recorder for West and East Sussex. As you will read below, Paul is offering to mentor a suitable volunteer. Meanwhile, please send your vascular plant records NOT to Paul's personal email address but to sussex.recorder@gmail.com. Churchyard records go to Helen in the first instance, as usual.

New Vice County Recorder for Sussex (VC13 & 14)

**by Paul Harmes, on behalf of the SBRS
Committee**

The Sussex Botanical Recording Society (SBRS) is searching for someone who would like to become the next Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Vice County Recorder for Sussex.

The convention, as it stands, is that the SBRS makes a recommendation of a candidate to the BSBI, which formally nominates that individual to the post.

The SBRS Committee would like to know if there is anyone in the membership who thinks that they might consider taking on the role, but were unsure what is required. The Recorder has the task of accepting new records received by the society, vetting and, occasionally, rejecting them.

If you feel you might be suited to the task, please contact Paul Harmes (pharmes@btinternet.com), who will answer any questions and is prepared, along with Matthew Berry, to offer seven months mentorship and guidance to the successful candidate, with the intention of their assuming the role on January 1st 2018.

In the event of several people coming forward, the SBRS Committee reserves the right to make the final selection, and to recommend their choice of candidate to the BSBI.

Thank you for your interest.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FIELD MEETINGS: CHANGES & ADDITIONS

Wednesday 24th May St Dunstan's Farm

Unimproved species-rich grassland managed by traditional methods; lots of orchids. To drive to St Dunstan's, you need to turn sharp left (or turn right if you are coming from the west) from the B2096 at Chapel Cross (TQ614204), then keep right on the lanes towards Warbleton until TQ611190, when the start of the entrance track is a sharp right just at the start of the right-hand minor lane turn-off. Then keep left along this drive for half a mile and park at TQ610 197. Meet by barn. The postcode is TN21 9BA.

Saturday 8th July Pevensey Levels

We will benefit from the expertise of our aquatic botanist, Jane Birch as she leads us across the White Dyke area of Pevensey Levels. We will explore a few of the many dykes and ditches for aquatic and marginal plants. We can add records to TQ60E and assist Natural England who is short of records here. From Hailsham High Street, continue straight ahead to Market Street, Lade Court and Mill road. Turn left at the Lion House Park. Continue to the end of the road and park at or near White Dyke Farm, BN27 2SD, TQ609086.

Change of venue:

Sunday 20th August

Dawn and Nick regret that they have been unable to arrange sufficient parking for the proposed meeting on the Downs above Treyford. Local farms will be busy and combine harvesters will be trundling along the narrow lanes. Instead we shall survey Graffham Common, where the SWT has been carrying out much good management work. There is safe roadside parking at SU939196 opposite Fitzlea Wood.

The SBRS website

by **Brad Scott**

Huge thanks to everyone who has been sending material for the website. It is important to add new bits of content fairly frequently so it doesn't stagnate! Recent items in the Latest Sightings area include: a piece by Keith Palmer about the Rusper lichen meeting; Dawn on winter flowers; an extended item drawing together the various Sussex contributions to the BSBI New Year Plant Hunt; and Jacqueline on *Euphorbia prostrata* in Hastings.

Through the year, I'm very happy to receive items for Latest Sightings. Such posts can take a variety of forms, depending on your preferences, for example: a few sentences about a specific plant, and why it is interesting (eg new record for a tetrad, unusual habitat, etc); a slightly longer piece about a walk you may have had in the field; a couple of paragraphs about a plant which, though common, you may not have seen before, or have just learned to identify; or any other form which you care to adopt! Each item needs a title, at least one picture, and some text. I'm especially keen to have submissions from some of the marginal hectads: SU93, TQ03, TQ24, TQ73, TR01, TR02, TV49 so I can get the tetrad species lists to link from the map interface.

In addition, if you fancy writing anything at all for the website I'd be happy to receive it. Identification guides, book reviews or even annotated bibliographies are all things that could usefully be included. If it is something you are interested in, the chances are that other members might be too.

Please send all submissions to:

webmaster@sussexflora.org.uk.

Finally, the password for the page of SBRS Officers' contact details has been changed. It is now: [XXXX]

Flora Progress by Nick Sturt

All the introductory chapters and the species accounts have been written: when you read this in May it will be the labour-intensive business of checking that is in progress. The design and presentation of the many distribution maps is a complex task involving the Sussex Biological Record Centre and the publisher liaising with the Flora Working Group: this too should by now be well advanced. Meanwhile, there are photographs to select from a large library collected and catalogued by Arthur and Mike. For certain introductory chapters images have had to be sourced, and Kew and the Linnean Society in particular have been very helpful in supplying – without charge – portraits of past Sussex botanists of distinction. In fine, things are moving quickly, thanks in large part to Brad, whose experience of the publishing world is guiding the process. We expect to have previews of *The Flora of Sussex* to show you at the Autumn Get-together and flyers containing the pre-publication offer.

Obituary: Renee Folkerd (1919-2017)

by Jenny Clark and Beryl Clough

Renee and her husband, Philip, arrived in Worthing in the early 1970s. Renee had been interested in plants for many years, was a member of the Wild Flower Society, and therefore a mine of information concerning sites for rare plants. She and Philip, an excellent plant photographer, soon took people under their wings and showed them places far and wide where plants such as Starfruit (one pond in Surrey), Fritillary, wild Monkshood, Stinking and Green Hellebores, the Gladiolus in New Forest and many more could be found. Coming away from the gladiolus site, Renee was approached by a young man who asked for directions to that plant. Standing by a little stream, Renee quizzed him on sedges, rushes and grasses. He failed the test and was not given directions! Favourite was a trip, often two car loads, to Kent, to Yockletts Bank to see the several orchids, Lady, Fly, Helleborines and others, then on to another location nearby to see the Monkey Orchid. Renee was a dedicated teacher and a group of us went to her house weekly during the winter to be coached in sedges, grasses, and among other groups, the dreaded yellow comps.

Before going abroad, and they went to many European countries, Renee would go through all five volumes of the *Flora Europaea* and write out lists of the plants found in that part of the world, together with essential characteristics needed to identify the genus and species. Renee gave an annual talk to Worthing Natural History Society, membership 100 plus, with Philip showing his excellent slides of plants seen at home and abroad, always showing an overall view and a close-up. On location, Renee used to sit nearby, having advised on what aspect of the plant had to be shown in the slide, studying grasses during the anything up to a 40 minute wait while the angle, light and steadiness of the subject was achieved. Philip reckoned to bring back 38 perfect slides from each of the ten x 36 frame films he took with him.

Renee was also very interested in fungi and every autumn would go, with anyone willing, to Vann Lake, a large conservation area owned by Mr Blaker-Blaker which is just over the border into Surrey west of the A24. Here Dr. Derek Reid, of Jodrell Laboratories, Kew, used to lead a merry band examining all the fungi we could find. The count went over 600 species in the eleven or so years the survey had been conducted. To boost numbers, Dr Reid would bring in Brian Spooner for the slime moulds. And, of course, one winter at Renee's house we studied fungi in detail.

In the Sussex botanical world, we were extremely fortunate to have had Renee's influence for all these years. We were only too happy to help in her later life by taking her shopping, doing the shopping... beware of bringing back tomatoes that were the wrong size... and then dealing with her needs when she left her house to go into a rest home in July 2009.

Three members of the SBRS Committee are standing down after many years of service to the Society. Our Chairman writes this appreciation:

Three Big Botanical Beasts

by Nick Sturt

When I joined the SBRS it seemed to me that there were a number of Big Botanical Beasts at large in its friendly jungle. As a small botanical beast I was inevitably in awe of these creatures, an awe which has not diminished so much as evolved into admiration and firm friendship. Arthur Hoare was such a beast when I encountered him in his natural habitat in the late 1970s. He seemed to know everything – the jizz of all the native plants likely and unlikely to be encountered, and an expert's eye for aliens and adventives – proof of which will be found in the species accounts of the forthcoming Flora where many a first county sighting is accompanied by the initials AGH. I have attended a number of talks delivered by Arthur and also 'enjoyed' the less happy position of being on the opposing Chichester team in quizzes organised by the Horsham Natural History Society – of which he has also been a pillar. On more field meetings than I could poke a stick at (supposing, of course, I were in the habit of stick-poking) I have got to know Arthur well as a great companion, and over lunch tantalizing snippets from his past have been vouchsafed, such as his legendary cycling days. At indoor meetings we have all appreciated his skills as a photographer – the stunning plant shots, the general natural history, the off-guard colleagues in fetching pink hats (I am thinking most particularly of the Editor). And of course, for years Arthur has reliably provided the wherewithal to show the slides and project the digital images. Further behind the scenes, Arthur has been a fixture on the Committee more or less forever (1980 at least), helping to move the Society forward while ensuring that it remains at once challenging and fun. Recently I referred to Arthur as a Good Egg. I would suggest that Arthur is living proof that it is possible to be both a Big Beast and a Good Egg. The SBRS certainly owes him an incalculable debt.

Another Big Botanical Beast I came upon nearly 40 years ago was Paul Harmes. More than Arthur, perhaps, he had the manner of a Big Beast with his boisterous bonhomie and a stentorian voice adapted to facilitate communication in dense woodland. (Not that the voice was always used: I remember once bearing the recording card near Woolbeding and seeing some way away Paul waving frantically and jumping up and down on one leg: I duly put a cross through *Humulus lupulus*). Paul is another who has made SBRS activities fun, and we are the poorer for his absence in the field over the last few years due to the demands of Naturetrek. One had to rein him in occasionally, of course. At Fishbourne I remember having to speak to him severely after he tried to attract the attention of The Venerable Alan with the words 'Oi, Knappy!'. In due course Paul took over the role of BSBI Recorder for East Sussex from the ever-helpful Breda Burt: not only Breda's role but also her the card-file – for in 26 years in post the job of BSBI Recorder has changed dramatically in terms of technology. In liaising with the national organisation and inspiring the SBRS membership Paul has been superb. His knowledge of the flora of the county is exceptional and very, very many of us have benefited from his offers to show us around his patch. I had a particularly exhilarating tour of Brighton flowerbeds, Falmer Pond, Longleaf at Denton and Ouse Valley arable one Summer evening, finishing up with a glass or two of Harveys and a curry in Lewes. You will recognise the energy and stamina that always accompanies Paul's botany! Paul learned a great deal from Mary Briggs, of course, and he formed a highly productive partnership with Alan Knapp. The two of them dreamt up the Flora project, quietly hiving off the post-2000 records until they brought us all in. And the rest is History – or will be when the Flora is published. Talking of history, this has become Paul's especial interest and we look forward to reading and hearing about the fruits of his researches in the future. As far as SBRS history is concerned, Paul's contribution to the life and development of the SBRS has been phenomenal. Of course, due to unforeseen circumstances Paul has not quite relinquished the reins of Recorder, but I feel this appreciation is already overdue.

Around 1980 Howard was not quite a Big Botanical Beast. He emerged from an agricultural background via the Royal Navy and thought he might like to get into plants. In those days Howard came with his wife Louise (whose baked potatoes are recalled with fond nostalgia by older members) and young Robert who was very useful when a specimen was required from a cliff or a high wall. Howard had already graduated from vascular plants to bryophytes when I met him

about 1980, under the tutelage of our past chairman Rod Stern. He also learned from two other great men, Ted Wallace and Francis Rose – Francis in addition initiating him into the arcane world of lichens, with which Howard became much more than proficient. With Rod and Francis and Brian Coppins he produced the *Atlas of Sussex Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens* in 1991. Francis Rose's ecological introduction to this work has been adapted for the new Flora by our President, another eminent 'Franciscan'. Howard's enthusiasm and quickness to learn, backed up by superb microscopical skills, enabled him to make some remarkable additions to bryology in Sussex. He was also requested on a number of expeditions abroad, notably to Africa, and for many years he had a regular day working at the British Museum; currently we are awaiting a new volume on the bryophyte flora of Ascension Island. It is impossible for me to list here even the most outstanding achievements of Howard, or to provide a bibliography of his publications. In more recent times he has devoted himself to research into increasingly obscure forms of vegetable and fungal life-forms. I cannot help but recall the story about him taking full advantage of Bruce's rare entrée to Leonardslee by collecting samples of wallaby dung: I am, alas, not able to reveal what coprophilous monstrosities he coaxed from this exotic material in his laboratory at Strettington! He has, however, shared with the SBRS membership many fascinating scientific adventures through his series of popular articles in the Newsletter over the years and I hope that these will continue. For the SBRS Howard took over the brief of Lower Plants but his contributions to the proceedings in committee have always been generous across the board and his views on issues have always been apposite. We salute this third Big Botanical Beast and wish him well with his future studies of what are not infrequently overlooked organisms in our local ditches and puddles, and indeed upon our very doorsteps.

Introduction to mosses by Nevil Hutchinson

In February I attended a one day course at Woods Mill, the headquarters of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, which was run by our society. Had it been a one day course run by my profession, it would likely have cost me more than £100 and most of it I would have heard before. This, however, cost merely the price of membership to the Sussex Botanical Recording Society and catapulted me almost vertically up what

will, I hope, become a very long and enjoyable learning curve.

It was run by David Streeter, our inestimable president, academic ecologist and author of the successful *Collins Wild Flower Guide*. The aim was to entice us away from a blinkered botanical mindset confined to vascular plants and to spread our taxonomic wings into the paraphyletic (as we learnt) world of mosses, liverworts and hornworts.

We started in the classroom with a general introduction aided by a carefully crafted powerpoint presentation. Britain is more important for bryophytes than it is for flowering plants, having around 60% of the European flora (compared with just 20% for higher plants). Along with lichens, bryophytes are a crucial part of the National Vegetation Classification system, emphasizing their role as habitat indicators.

There are around a thousand bryophyte species in the UK, roughly one third the number of higher plants, and David outlined the general features of the main groupings. Perhaps the striking thing about bryophytes is the dominance of the gametophyte generation, the converse of flowering plants. They are overlooked in general because of their diminutive size, but when you see them close up or through the miracle of magnification they are every bit as beautiful as the flowering plants. Not only that, they are most easily studied in what are usually considered the botanically barren months of the year.

The practical part of the day consisted of a woodland visit and a chalk grassland visit, broken by lunch. We were issued with sheets listing the expected species for each site as well as a very sensible health and safety sheet (which did the trick as there were no accidents to report). For each species we were given the salient features whilst studying them in-hand and many of us kept samples for our records. I found this particularly useful as remembering more than a few new species after a one-off exposure is difficult and consolidation is so much easier with some material to look at again at home.

We spent the lion's share of our enthusiasm in the woods, clocking up sixteen species and only stopping when rain provided the necessary cue to return to the classroom for consolidation and lunch. The chalk grassland visit took us to the bottom of Newtimber Hill and we found another six species, along with one

which we'd already seen in the woods – *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

I've had several 'go's at bryophytes but never managed to attain the critical mass of knowledge necessary to serve as a foundation to build on. After this course, followed up with a review at home in front of the books, I feel the world of bryophytes is in grave danger of increased attention.

Reflecting on the experience had me once again marvelling at the generosity of the more experienced members of our society. So many people are prepared to pass on their invaluable knowledge with patience and good humour. It's inspiring.

Woodland species found:

Brachythecium rutabulum
Thamnobryum alopecurum
Eurhynchium striatum
Polytrichastrum formosum
Plagiomnium undulatum
Isoetecium myosuroides
Kindbergia praelonga
Cryphaea heteromalla
Hypnum cupressiforme
Orthotrichum affine
Mnium hornum
Atrichum undulatum
Thuidium tamariscinum
Frullania dilatata
Microlejeunea ulicina
Calliergonella cuspidata

Chalk grassland species found:

Fissidens taxifolius var taxifolius
Weissia brachycarpa var obliqua
Neckera crispa
Entodon concinnus
Homalothecium lutescens
Pseudoscleropodium purum
Calliergonella cuspidata

Reference books:

Atherton, I., Bosanquet, S. & Lawley, M. (eds). *Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland: a Field Guide*. British Bryological Society.

Porley, R. & Hodgetts, N. (2005). *Mosses & Liverworts*. Collins New Naturalist series.

Watson, E.V. (1981). *British Mosses & Liverworts*. 3rd ed. Cambridge University Press.

The Churchyard Project by Helen Proctor

A huge thank-you again to the members who took part in 2016. Records collected from 156 churchyards and cemeteries have resulted in a large amount of data which has been analysed during the winter months.

Analyses of the records and survey forms

Analyses were carried out, using certain indicator species of ancient semi-natural woodland and of unimproved neutral to acid grassland. Some species which only occur on calcareous soils were added to the grassland list. Most species on the two lists were given a score of '1'. Grassland species indicative of a long period of uninterrupted management scored '2' and Orchid species scored '3'. *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* and *Primula veris* were excluded unless there was clear evidence that they had not been planted. Grass species were counted and changes in flora since the 1980s surveys were noted. The survey forms were also analysed. The churchyards and cemeteries which had the highest scores are shown below.

Highest Scoring Churchyards and cemeteries in East and West Sussex

	Ancient woodland scores	Unimproved grassland scores	Number of grass species
East Sussex			
Battle Cemetery		17	17
Bexhill Cemetery		17	
Hadlow Down		20	
Netherfield		16	
Newick			17
Spithurst		24	
Uckfield Cemetery	9		
West Sussex			
Coolhurst		28	
Ebernoe		30	
Loxwood	8		
Lurgashall	9		
Milland			22
Staplefield		28	

In East Sussex, Orchids were recorded in 21 churchyards and cemeteries out of the 75 completed surveys. In West Sussex, thirteen churchyards had Orchid species out of the 81 completed surveys.

A few churchyards had botanically interesting walls. One churchyard was home to five *Asplenium* species! Several flowering plants were found to thrive on the boundary wall at Litlington church, out of reach of the strimmer!

The survey forms showed that 66% surveyed sites included some areas which were not cut regularly. Recorders assessed that the grass cuttings were removed from 50% sites, but not removed from 34% sites. In 24 churchyards (16%), this was not known or unclear. Where grass is frequently cut very short, the cuttings are 'mulched' back into the turf and soon disappear, enriching the soil. Where so-called 'conservation areas' are never cut over many years, or cut once a year with the cuttings not removed, the grassland becomes dominated by coarse grasses which form large tussocks, stifling many meadow plants. There was some correlation between high scores and good management. The high number of grass species in some churchyards and cemeteries may indicate good management and diverse grassland habitats.

Changes in the flora

Manually entered recording cards from 1988 were compared with 2016 digitised records. At Hadlow Down for example, some species which occurred in 1988 were not recorded in 2016. These included *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Achillea ptarmica* and *Anacamptis morio*. There were 54 losses including eight unimproved grassland indicator species and two ancient woodland indicator species. The 46 gains included nine non-native species. There were 88 species recorded continuously. The limited number and possibly varying timings of visits in the 1980s and in 2016 would have affected the results.

Species numbers were generally higher in the 2016 recording.

Caring for God's Acre

This charity promotes good management of churchyards and burial sites and has many freely downloadable leaflets. <http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>.

Instructions for Recording in 2017

The list of churchyards and cemeteries on the website comprises those not yet 'adopted'. The list consists mainly of medieval churches but there may be some further churchyards and cemeteries worth recording. Please notify Helen of your offer to record a site in order to avoid duplicated effort.

Please aim to make at least three visits to the churchyard or cemetery to include a Spring visit up to May 31st, a mid-summer visit in June or July and a late summer visit in August or September.

Please enter records electronically on the new Excel ver.1.7, downloadable from:

<http://www.sussexflora.org.uk/get-involved/recording/> .

The instructions are at:

http://www.sussexflora.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Instructions_for_Excel_record_card.doc .

On the entry sheet, please enter:

- Location + name of churchyard or cemetery.
- Tetrad code. If the site falls into more than one tetrad, a list for each tetrad will be needed.
- Correct status - Native, Planted (only include trees), Casual or Established. Please add a comment if you believe a native plant has been planted rather than occurring naturally.
- A central grid reference in the Comments column below the last record.
- Notes in the Comments column regarding frequencies and habitats, eg whether on walls, in hedgerows etc.

Please avoid duplicates!

If uncertain of ID, do ask for help! If you are new to recording, please make a start with an experienced recorder.

Please send records soon after each visit to Helen or to surveys@sussexflora.org.uk. And please send the records from your third visit of the year by September 30th.

Completion of the survey form is appreciated.

Good luck and happy botanising!

New and Interesting Records 2016

Selected by Mike Shaw and Paul Harmes from the many interesting records which have been received.

West Sussex VC13

Species	Location	Tetrad	Status	Recorder	Notes
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Graffham Common	SU91J	E	JSI	Several plants with spiny fruits on the bank.
<i>Agrostis curtisii</i>	Stedham Common	SU82K	N	SBRS	By sandy track.
<i>Allium paradoxum</i>	Selham Road	SU92F	N	JSI	On a pile of rubble.
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Selham Common	SU91J	N	JSI	One plant on wall at Smokyhouse behind the gas boiler.
<i>Cardamine corymbosa</i>	Amberley	TQ01G	E	MMS	In paving cracks, Amberley Castle
<i>Centunculus minimus</i>	Stedham Common	SU82K	N	SBRS	Plentiful on track for 20m+
<i>Clinopodium ascendens</i>	Sutton	SU91S	N	JSI	A few by bridle-way in Northcomb Wood
<i>Cotoneaster hjelmqvistii</i>	Shoreham Beach	TQ20H	U	SBRS	
<i>Crataegus heterophylla</i>	Chithurst churchyard	SU82L	U	DNE	In hedgerow between churchyard and lane
<i>Euphrasia arctica</i> x <i>nemorosa</i>	Steyning	TQ11Q	N	N&ES	Rifle Range
<i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i> x <i>confusa</i>	Heyshott Down	SU91D	N	N&ES	
<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Medmerry	SZ89H	N	CCHA	Large plant c 1x1m
<i>Gnaphalium luteoalbum</i>	Pagham	SZ89Y	E	DNE/JOA	Western end of East Front Rd., N side by amusement arcade. Several large plants in flower.
<i>Gnaphalium luteoalbum</i>	Pagham	SZ89Y	E	DNE/JOA	Gravel and paved parking area in front of 33 Harbour Rd (S side). Several small plants.
<i>Hieracium calcaricola</i>	Gatehouse Lane, near Borden	SU82H	N	MMS	Roadside bank
<i>Hordeum marinum</i>	Medmerry	SZ89H	N	CCHA	With <i>Spergularia</i> spp. and <i>Hordeum secalinum</i> in disturbed creekside sward, c.5 plants
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Dale Park	SU90U	C	JSI	By track, edge of rough field. Many plants.
<i>Hypericum x desetangsii</i>	Stedham Common	SU82K	N	SBRS	Several plants
<i>Isolepis setacea</i>	Stedham Common	SU82K	N	SBRS	
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Waltham Brooks Reserve	TQ01H	N	FA	Approx. 150 plants in marsh by lagoon
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Waltham Brooks Reserve	TQ01I	N	FA	Several plants in marsh by lagoon
<i>Lemna turionifera</i>	Amberley Wild Brooks	TQ01M	E	RVL	Ditch
<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	Stedham Common	SU82K	U	SBRS	Not known whether native here or re-introduced
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Parham Park	TQ01M	N	DTS/NJS	1 m2 patch on top of bank parallel to right of way
<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Lickfold	SU92H	E	JSI	Large tall bank at side of former 'log-depot' at entrance to recently felled woodland.
<i>Rumex cristatus</i>	Poling	TQ00H	S	PDS	Central reservation of the A27 near Poling; conf. MMS
<i>Salix triandra</i>	Patching/Clapham	TQ00X	A	SBRS	Two mature trees by Patching Pond
<i>Salix triandra</i>	Clapham area	TQ00Y	A	SBRS	One tree nr footpath
<i>Scilla luciliae</i>	Terwick Churchyard	SU82B	U	DNE	W side
<i>Taraxacum gelertii</i>	Pagham	SZ89Y	N	DNE	On vegetated shingle S of old beach carpark about 1/3 way from E end.
<i>Taraxacum wallonicum</i>	Clapham area	TQ00Y	N	SBRS	In rabbit-grazed field north of Church Copse; conf. AJR
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Littlehampton	TQ00G	E	DMD	Church Street, on site of former Arun District Council buildings, demolished about three

					years ago; plants are adjacent to the pavement
<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>galeopsifolia</i>	Chithurst churchyard	SU82L	N	DNE	All around W and S sides
<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>galeopsifolia</i>	Houghton	TQ01A	N	FA	By South Lane.

East Sussex VC14

Species	Location	Tetrad	Status	Recorder	Notes
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	Bexhill Cemetery	TQ70J	N	EMC/JAR/ FWI	Occasional to frequent.
<i>Allium cristophii</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60F	C	MBE	One plant on rough ground.
<i>Allium nigrum</i>	Eastbourne	TV69E	E	MBE	Several on waste ground.
<i>Allium trifoliatum</i>	Eastbourne	TV69E	C	MBE	Spoil heap by golf course.
<i>Allium tuberosum</i>	Bexhill	TQ70I	C	MBE/JLI	Waste ground nr garden.
<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	Horseye	TQ60J	N	SBRS	Nr New Bridge.
<i>Amaranthus blitum</i>	Eastbourne	TV69J	C	MBE	One plant by pavement.
<i>Anagallis monelli</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60L	C	MBE	On shingle.
<i>Arenaria leptoclados</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60L	N	MBE	By footpath.
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>cicla</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60F	C	MBE	In re-seeded area.
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> subsp. <i>ferronii</i>	Tide Mills	TQ40K	N	STM	Det. TAC. Over 500 plants.
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Pett Level	TQ91C	N	EMC/JAR	
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Beachy Head	TV59S	N	MBE/JLI	
<i>Carex distans</i>	Cuckmere Haven	TV59D	N	SBRS	Nr shingle bank.
<i>Carex lepidocarpa</i>	Fairlight End, Pett	TQ81R	E	JVC/EMC/ JAR	Five patches.
<i>Carex pallescens</i>	East Hoathly	TQ51C	N	SBRS	Rowland Wood.
<i>Carex pallescens</i>	N of Haywards Heath	TQ32I	N	ASY	
<i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>	East Hoathly	TQ51C	N	SBRS	Park Corner Heath.
<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>	Eastbourne	TV69J	C	MBE	Seedling by garden wall.
<i>Catananche caerulea</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60F	C	MBE	Concrete passage-way.
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i> var. <i>repens</i>	Eastbourne	TV69J	C	MBE	Urban roadside.
<i>Centaureum scilloides</i>	Bexhill cemetery	TQ70J	E	EMC/MWO	
<i>Centaureum scilloides</i>	Stone Cross	TQ60C	C	MBE	Field behind nursery.
<i>Chenopodium giganteum</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60F	C	MBE	One plant in re-seeded area.
<i>Chenopodium glaucum</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60F	A	MBE	Urban roadside.
<i>Clarkia amoena</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60A	C	MBE	
<i>Crepis biennis</i>	E of Falmer	TQ30U	N	ASY	In rough vegetation.
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Pevensey	TQ60M	E	RPW	St Nicholas churchyard
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Friston	TV59P	E	JLI/MBE/ P.Donovan	Churchyard
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Laughton	TQ51B	C	JLI/MBE/ HMP	Churchyard
<i>Cyperus involucratus</i>	Eastbourne	TV69J	C	MBE	Pavement crack nr garden.
<i>Dactyloctenium x evansii</i>	Ashdown Forest	TQ43G	N	J&DL	Det. DCL. One spike nr parents.
<i>Dactylorhiza x grandis</i>	Stone Cross	TQ60C	N	MBE	
<i>Dryopteris aemula</i>	Eridge Rocks	TQ53M	N	SLE	
<i>Echium pininana</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60F	C	MBE	By wall.
<i>Epilobium roseum</i>	Eastbourne	TV69E	N	MBE	
<i>Euphrasia anglica</i> x <i>nemorosa</i>	Pett	TQ81R	N	JVC/EMC/ JAR	Det. ES. Fairlight End.
<i>Galium parisiense</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60L	C	MBE	On dry stony bank.
<i>Galium parisiense</i>	Seaford cemetery	TQ40V	N	NKM	Also seen by PSM.
<i>Geranium x oxonianum thurstonianum</i>	Eastbourne	TV59Z	C	MBE	
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Eastbourne	TV69E	A	MBE	By urban gutter.
<i>Hieracium exotericum</i> agg.	Eastbourne	TQ50V	E	MBE	Det. DJM. Road verge.
<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	Rickney	TQ60I	N	SBRS	

<i>Hypericum hircinum</i>	Stone Cross	TQ60C	C	MBE/RPW	By fishing lake.
<i>Iberis umbellata</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60L	C	MBE	
<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	Pett Level	TQ91C	N	EMC/JAR	On beach pebbles.
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i> <i>ssp. aestivum</i>	E of Haywards Heath	TQ32R	E	ASY	
<i>Mentha requienii</i>	Bexhill cemetery	TQ70J	E	EMC/JAR/ FWI	Path.
<i>Nuphar advena</i>	W. Hoathly area	TQ33R	E	MBE/RPW	Det. MBE/EJC. Ditch by lake, Gravetye Manor Hotel.
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	E & S of Robertsbridge	TQ72L	C	BAC	Det. PAH. By path by Wellhead Wood.
<i>Persicaria amplexicaule</i>	Westham churchyard	TQ60M	E	RPW	
<i>Persicaria minor</i>	Freshfield Crossways	TQ32X	N	MBE/RPW	Dried field pond.
<i>Potamogeton acutifolius</i>	Horseye	TQ60J	N	SBRS	
<i>Potamogeton acutifolius</i>	Rickney	TQ60I	N	SBRS	
<i>Potentilla x mixta</i>	Bexhill cemetery	TQ70J	N	EMC/JAR	On two graves.
<i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i>	Abbotts Wood	TQ50U	N	EVJ/SD	Pool by path.
<i>Rumex x pseudopulcher</i>	Rye area	TQ91I	N	GDK/SDK	Between Rye & Winchelsea, in grassland on stabilized dune.
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Pett Level	TQ91C	N	PADO/JAR	By ditch.
<i>Scilla sardensis</i>	Eastbourne	TV69D	S	MBE	Verge.
<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>	Hastings Country Park	TQ81Q	N	SBRS	In newly cleared area.
<i>Silene nutans</i>	NE of Woodingdean	TQ30T	N	ASY	Castle Hill NNR.
<i>Sisyrinchium striatum</i>	Eastbourne	TV69E	C	MBE/RPW	Shingle.
<i>Solanum physalifolium</i>	Falmer	TQ30P	C	MBE/RPW	
<i>Teucrium hircanicum</i>	Eastbourne	TV59Z	C	MBE	Det. EJC. Self-sown by wall & steps.
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>	Eridge Rocks	TQ53M	N	SLE	Back of cave.
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60L	E	MBE	Patches on road verge.
<i>Valerianella dentata</i>	E of Falmer	TQ30U	A	ASY	
<i>Veronica agrestis</i>	Seaford cemetery	TQ40V	A	PSM	On grave.
<i>Veronica scutellata</i>	Chailey Common	TQ32Q	N	ASY	Wet patch, Pound Common.
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>sativa</i>	E of Falmer	TQ30U	E	ASY	Rough grassland, perhaps arable reversion.

Initials of recorders and determiners

ASY	Ady Symon	JVC	Judy Clark
BAC	Barry Acheson	MBE	Matthew Berry
CCHA	Clive Chatters	MMS	Mike Shaw
DCL	David Lang	MWO	D.M. Woodhouse
DJM	David McCosh	N&ES	Nick & Elisabeth Sturt
DMD	David Donovan	NJS	Nick Sturt
DNE	Dawn Nelson	NKM	Keith Maybury
DTS	David Streeter	PADO	Patrick Donovan
EJC	Eric Clement	PAH	Paul Harmes
EMC	Ellen Campbell	PDS	Paul Stanley
ES	Elisabeth Sturt	PSM	Peter Smith
EVJ	Evan Jones	RPW	Roy Wells
FA	Frances Abraham	RVL	Richard Lansdown
FWI	Frances Winch	SBRS	Sussex Botanical Recording Society
GDK	Geoffrey Kitchener	SD	Simon Davey
HMP	Helen Proctor	SDK	Sarah Kitchener
J&DL	James & Dawn Langiewicz	SLE	Stephen Lemon
JAR	Jacqueline Rose	STM	Stephanie Miles
JLI	Judith Linsell	TAC	Tom Cope
JOA	Jill Oakley		
JSI	Jonathan Simons		

Recording in 2017

by Matthew Berry and Paul Harmes

Spring recording is now well underway and members will be looking forward to the summer. With *The Flora of Sussex* nearing completion and recording for Atlas 2020 well in hand, there is bound to be a growing appetite for fresh projects and new challenges. Fear not, there is still much to be done! The Sussex Churchyard Survey is far from complete and has already yielded much interesting data, as Helen Proctor outlined to us at the last AGM. The business of general recording, tetrad by tetrad, is never complete of course - the flora is constantly changing and, by now, many tetrads will not have been thoroughly surveyed by individuals or groups wielding recording cards for some years. This sort of work, while rarely glamorous or exciting, is extremely important and will always constitute an important part of our recording activities.

What of possible projects / ideas for the future? One suggestion is for **site recording**. This would be a way to generate species lists (with the recording still carried out on a tetrad basis) for SSSIs, national and local nature reserves, and could easily be extended to include sites which members have identified as being of botanical interest, but which might lack official conservation status. **Dedicated** field meetings have also been mooted, with venues picked because they represent or contain good examples of particular Sussex habitats, or because they are especially rich in species belonging to particular genera etc. In the latter case, 'master classes' could easily be incorporated into the day's recording.

We are still very keen to increase the Society's knowledge and prowess with regard to the recording of taxa which belong to difficult and/or critical groups and families. This would include refinement of our recording of segregates and infraspecific taxa where possible, as well as of hybrids. If you are developing a particular botanical specialisation, or have had some 'breakthroughs' of a relevant kind, please think about how this knowledge might be used to the general advantage of the Society. The suggestions given on pages 8-10 of the May 2016 Newsletter provide an excellent starting point for members wondering about how they might be able to contribute here.

The procedure for sending in your records remains as set out on page 12 of the January 2017 Newsletter. Paul Harmes will be staying on as VC13 & 14 Recorder (with Matthew Berry as Assistant Recorder) until 31st December 2017, by which time it is hoped that a successor will have been found – see the advertisement on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Do not hesitate to contact the Recorders for further guidance, or with your feedback pertaining to any of the above.

Thank you all for your hard work and happy recording for 2017!