



Sussex Botanical Recording Society

Newsletter

No. 86

<http://www.sussexflora.org.uk>

May 2018

Chairman's Message

The name David Streeter has been known to me for a very long time indeed, for he drifted into my juvenile attention in 1962 when my mother suggested I join the infant Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation, now flourishing under the name Sussex Wildlife Trust. David was instrumental in setting up the Trust and very soon it was headed by another SBRS stalwart, Frank Penfold. While Frank lead the organisation with his trademark dynamism, David was on hand to provide the ecological expertise wherever it was required. And there were big battles to be fought as naturalists and others who loved the countryside made a stand for conservation. Perhaps the greatest of these battles was the proposed pump drainage scheme on Amberley Wild Brooks in the 1970s. More of the story of saving the special sites and habitats of Sussex can be read in Frances' fine Conservation chapter in the *Flora*: pause to enjoy the photograph on page 53, kindly provided by Henri Brocklebank, which shows Frank and David with David Attenborough at Woods Mill in 1981.

David Streeter's carefree expression in the picture gives no clue as to what was on his mind at the time but I would guess that the superb *Wild Flowers of the British Isles* was already taking shape. I acquired my copy as soon as it was published in 1983 and Ian Garrard's outstanding plant illustrations have been a pleasure to me ever since. Needless to say, the text is of no inferior quality and there are very clear and logical notes appended to the species accounts which lead the field botanist with his or her scraps of the day's finds to the correct identification. Since then a more portable Streeter volume, the highly successful *Collins Guide*, has reappeared as a second edition: the Society has had the pleasure of welcoming Christina Hart-Davis whose artwork adorns it, while the keys themselves are more formal and based on a lifetime of looking at the plants in question. Of course, David was expertly taught – by none other than the great Francis Rose.

Yet although I was familiar with the name David Streeter for many years, it was not until 2013 that I

Continued on page 2

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 27th October 2018

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. Please remember to bring a packed lunch; tea, coffee and cakes will be available. Members are invited to bring books and plants for sale and any items of interest or specimens for display. Offers of homemade cakes are always welcome. There will be a guest speaker and we shall also judge our Photographic Competition: see p.3.

Saturday 2nd March 2019

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 2018. 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.

Contents

Chairman's message	1
Dates for your Diary	1
Treasurer's note	2
Data protection.....	3
Additional field meeting.....	3
SBRS Photo competition.....	3
Recording in 2018.....	4
Launch of the <i>Flora</i>	4
Freshwater algae.....	5
Early bryologists	5
Hawkweed help needed	6
Churchyard project.....	6
Notable records 2017: VC13.....	8
Notable records 2017: VC14.....	9
SBRS Officers	10

Treasurer's Note

Following preparation of the Society's Accounts for 2017 I may now update you as to the state of the Flora Fund. It stood at 31st December 2017 at £34,676 and since then I have paid the balance due by us for the production of the Flora. 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 payment for the work to be sent to me for the Flora Fund: Helen Proctor continues to be very assiduous in this department. The proceeds of the pre-publication offer for the Flora has produced sufficient cash to pay the balance due for the production of the book, so we shall be left with an healthy balance in the Flora Fund plus an income stream from further sales. At the time of writing this we have sold almost 600 copies which is half the print run.

Subscriptions for 2018 remain as for 2017 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 2017 or earlier please now do so if you wish to remain a member. If you are uncertain of your subscription status please contact me and I shall let you know.

Trevor Lording

Continued from page 1

was in the field with the man himself. The occasion was a search of the downland scarp near Offham to try to refind *Teucrium chamaedrys* (Wall Germander) which was known here before the Second World War. In the event the location had scrubbed over and the plant apparently gone but I recall us all sitting on top of the ridge afterwards. David, Tony Spiers and Paul Harnes turned their attention to an enigmatic *Euphrasia* growing in the short turf by the track; its somewhat wavy branches were, they thought, suggestive of *E. confusa*. I suspect that this discussion, after a couple of years' gestation, was what prompted Elisabeth to grapple with Eyebrights... but I'm digressing. To return to the subject, it was Mary Briggs who had gathered David in: he had been in at the start of the Sussex Flora Committee in 1965 which went on to produce the *Sussex Plant Atlas*, but since then other commitments had meant that he had become something of a *rara avis*. Mary used all her powers of persuasion to inveigle David onto the Flora Working Group: I smile to recognise in retrospect how inevitable for him then was the next step – to President!

The reasons for David's absence for some time from SBRS activities became obvious to me when I googled him in preparation for his introduction as President: in addition to his work at the University of Sussex and his regular field trips around the country, I was able to discover exactly how many bodies connected with ecology, botany and Sussex in general benefited from his presence. He was recently honoured for his long service to the BSBI, but no organisation owes him more thanks than does the SWT, where this rambling note started. David served it in all for 56 years, latterly and felicitously as President. Thus on 8th December last his retirement was celebrated at Woods Mill in style. After canapes, there followed tributes from many old colleagues and speeches from the Chairman of the SWT Carole Nicholson and the Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts Stephanie Hilborne – all delivered against a backdrop of that image of David and Frank and the other David outside the mill building.

David is now devoting a lot of his time to supporting the SBRS. He believes in the importance of recording the flora – both vascular and lower plants – scientifically and over the long term, which is the central purpose of the Society and has found its latest expression in the new *Flora*. He is a natural teacher and would like us to think more ecologically about our plants, to understand them in the context of their habitats and communities. And, as you will have read in his presidential message in the January Newsletter, he is extremely concerned that we seek to spread the word about plants, to help others in the county, particularly the next generation, to develop an interest in them. For he is surely right when he asserts that if people in Sussex are not able to identify or appreciate their wild plants then they are not going to make any effort to protect them.

I would like to conclude this message by taking up David's point about education. You will recall that Helen while wearing her fetching Churchyard hat urges recorders to feed back to the relevant authorities their findings so that local people might be made aware of the treasures on their doorsteps and so be encouraged to look after them. She is unquestionably right! Further, however, there is the recent example of an area of unimproved grassland on Henfield Common suddenly suffering the removal of soil, plant community and all in order to upgrade football pitches. Sports fields and village greens all over Sussex hold precious remnants of grassland habitats which we can very easily lose. One has only to go to the case of *Chamaemelum nobile* (Chamomile), now a rare vascular plant species in Britain, which in our county survives almost solely

on a number of cricket outfields where a regime of mowing mimics the hard grazing that it needs. For our mycological colleagues, of course, there are also Waxcaps to worry about. I would stress that this is not a question of those of a botanical bent being 'spoil sports', for in the majority of cases there will surely be room for accommodation and compromise; but over the next few years the Committee would like the members of the Society to survey their neighbourhood greens and pitches to identify those that are of botanical interest so that the bodies which manage them can be informed of their value, with the consequence that rare plant communities are not lost through ignorance. So let us set about an audit of these sites without delay!

Nick Sturt

Data protection of SBRS members

In May the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will become law in the UK. The SBRS holds your name, address, telephone number and email address and will comply with this legislation under the provision of 'legitimate interests'. This means that the SBRS will use this information solely to keep you informed of the Society's activities and events. The SBRS will never share your data with third parties. The SBRS takes every practicable measure to ensure that your information is safe and accurate at all times. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nick Sturt, Chairman

Additional Field Meeting in East Sussex

The Friends of Park Wood at Hellingly are currently involved in negotiations with the Environment Agency over the future of this ancient, semi-natural woodland. An additional meeting is planned to update the records for the Friends. Meet in the car park in Grove Hill at TQ593127 at 10.45am on Wednesday 16th May.

Helen Proctor

Helen adds a PS: that wellingtons are advisable on the Berwick Common meeting on June 23rd.

SBRS Photographic Competition 2018

As announced at the AGM, we are holding a photo competition for the first time this year. It will be organised by Peter Smith. Peter writes:

There are two categories:

- ☐ **Close-up of plant(s)**
- ☐ **Plant(s) in their habitat**

Rules

- 1.** The competition is free to enter and open to all SBRS members who are amateur photographers.
- 2.** Photographs must be taken in East or West Sussex but do not have to be taken in 2018.
- 3.** You may enter up to two digital images per category but you don't have to enter both categories.
- 4.** The winners will be selected by a popular vote of those attending the SBRS Autumn Meeting.
- 5.** The plants you photograph may be of any native or alien plants, including flowering plants, conifers, ferns, horsetails, club-mosses, stoneworts or bryophytes, casual or established, but growing *in the wild* (i.e. anywhere outside private gardens).
- 6.** The competition is now open and will run until **Saturday October 6th 2018**. Please send your entries to Peter Smith, the Competition Organiser (psmith@sussex.ac.uk) by that date.
- 7.** Submit the largest possible file sizes. Please consult Peter Smith as to how files over 10MB could best be submitted.
- 8.** Entitle photographs using the following format:
Close-up: 'Photo title (including location) by photographer's name_Close' e.g. 'Buttercup at Woods Mill by Joe Wolley-Dod_Close'
Habitat: e.g. 'Ghost Orchid at Woods Mill by Jane Wolley-Dod_Hab'
- 9.** Copyright of images will remain with the photographer. However, SBRS claims the right to exhibit the entries, and to use them to further its aims generally and to promote SBRS and its Photographic Competition. This includes publishing them in its publications, on the SBRS website or social media. All published photographs will be credited. SBRS also claims the right to edit or use images in combination with others.

Arrangements for submitting records of vascular plants 2018

by Nick Sturt

It was always going to be a tough job to succeed Paul Harmes and Mike Shaw, BSBI Recorders for East and West Sussex respectively. Despite our efforts and those of the BSBI, we have no one who feels able to take up the challenge of either vice county. A situation which could well compromise the central purpose of our Society has been avoided, however, by a system of a somewhat experimental nature formulated over a light lunch in the White Hart at Henfield.

West Sussex records should be sent to me, and East Sussex records to Matthew. We shall at this stage only be able to handle records generated by SBRS field meetings and SBRS recorders. By 'handle', I mean check and where necessary verify the records, then store them on a database. In most respects the system should function as before, ie with a share of the verifications delegated to the same competent SBRS members near or on the spot. I know that both Mike and Paul will provide input and advice. For the IT support that Matthew and I both require we have enlisted Judith. Judith will familiarise herself with Mapmate in order to present the records in the approved format for sharing with SxBRC and BSBI. Thus although neither Matthew nor I feel we currently have the time or specialist skills necessary to step up to be a BSBI Vice-county Recorder, we are prepared to try to serve the needs of the SBRS.

I would naturally encourage as many members as possible to go out into the field and record: but I would ask that the recording be targeted towards fresh data after the *Flora*. In other words, records of species new to tetrads, including new aliens, and re-finds of old records; Mike's list of records not re-found during the survey for the *Flora* is available on the website. The Churchyard Survey is another important source of new records; and we need to look at village greens and recreation grounds. Contact details for the SBRS Recorders will be found later in this Newsletter. We much prefer submission by the electronic version of the recording cards available as a download from the website, but we shall accept paper record cards if we are able to call upon volunteers to transcribe them. It is also especially important in this rather experimental phase that members keep their own database of the records which they have submitted. I hope that this makes the situation clear, but Matthew and I will be happy to answer your questions if you are in doubt how to proceed at any point.

How do you launch a Flora?

by Brad Scott

Lugging boxes of books around is much harder work than recording plants out in the field. Since we had dozens of boxes each weighing 15kg we were very glad to utilise the help of the assembled masses of Sussex naturalists at the annual Biological Recorders Seminar in Haywards Heath in February. This wonderful event was the perfect opportunity to launch *The Flora of Sussex*, and people were trying to buy or collect copies even before we'd opened the first box.

Many years ago I spent some time building bookshop window displays and those skills were quickly reheated to construct a large spiral tower of books, neatly complemented by the smart new SBRS banner that stood the other side of our table. People couldn't fail to notice us.

Trevor arrived with his efficient lists of who had pre-ordered copies, and then during every moment when there wasn't a talk those of us running the stand were faced with a small scrum offering money and taking their books away.

In case some of the attendees hadn't realised that *The Flora of Sussex* had arrived, Nick added to the excitement by presenting a talk on the project, covering its history and the practical realities of the extensive fieldwork, research and writing that we have all been involved with over the last decade and more.

By the end of the day we had sold 62 copies, as well as distributed dozens more to members and others who had pre-paid their orders. Happily, this meant many fewer boxes to take home, and the tower of books was no more. This was a terrific result. The number of SBRS pre-orders was 111, and Pisces (the publishers) had over 400 too, which meant that we had sold nearly half the print run on or before our launch.

Now, we can't be complacent about selling the rest, and we all need to continue to promote the book, remind our friends about it, and try to get local shops and other venues to stock it. Even so, the last few months have been an exhilarating journey as we discover how much appetite there is for such a well-researched and beautiful book, both in Sussex and beyond.

Freshwater Algae: Euglenoids

by Howard Matcham

The winter of 2016-17 was exceptionally dry and local winterbourne ditches did not contain water: the River Lavant at Westhampnett did not flow throughout the winter and barely managed a trickle towards the end of spring.

It was not until the end of May that I began to record the freshwater algae in any quantity, including two extensive Euglenoid blooms. According to John *et al.* (2011) there are approximately 900 species worldwide in about 54 free-living genera. Microscopic individuals can never or rarely be seen with the naked eye; blooms, however, are distinctive and can cover large areas of water. Botanists place them in the phylum *Euglenophyta* while zoologists place euglenophytes in *Protozoa*; most are green and phototropic although others are colourless with heterotrophic nutrition. The species in the genera below are green motile flagellates and I have only seen green species in the Chichester area, where most of my recording takes place.

Two common genera are found within this area (*Euglena* and *Lepocinclis*) and can be collected from all forms of waterbodies, permanent and temporary, and even ephemeral puddles have euglenoids within them. Most species are metabolic and squirm, contract, expand and contort in movement; with exceptional flexibility and contractility, the way in which they do so can help with the identification of individual species. (There are excellent demonstrations of this movement to be seen on YouTube). Morphology is complex and careful microscopic study is required for correct determination. Blooms were seen at Goodwood (*Euglena hemichromata*) in a ditch running parallel to the main forestry ride at Open Winkins plantation and another containing the same species at an artificial scrape on the west side of Burton pond near Petworth. Rook Wood at Halnaker has a small water-filled depression which contained two other species, *Euglena proxima* and *E. oxyuris* forma *majus*: the latter can be seen with a x20 lens and is a quite beautiful species.

On walking to Rook Wood one has to pass through a small field which contains a galvanized water trough. It is quite high off the ground: sheep have to stand on their hind legs to drink and they leave a muddy substrate below and around the tank. Several large green stains on the mud caught my eye and, on looking at a collection under the microscope, I found that I had collected a euglenoid but could not identify the species using the British literature. Eventually I discovered that I had collected a mud-loving species

which is almost certainly *Euglena truncata*, not previously recorded for the UK. Video sent to the European authority on the group could not be verified and I will have to return to collect and send fresh material of this globally extremely rare species.

Those of you who attended the ADASTRA seminar in February and have read my freshwater algal notes in ADASTRA 2017 will be aware that I collected two rare desmid species from puddles at Maudlin. In the same pipetted collection of water were two relatively uncommon euglenoids. *Euglena agilis* as its name suggests is a rapid swimmer: it zips about under the cover slip in a gyratory manner and, bearing in mind this species is between 18-33µm in length, you can appreciate why most euglenoids can only be detected under the microscope. This species does not form blooms but where found can be in large numbers and I have seen it from several puddles in the Strettington area (SU80Y). *Lepocinclis tripteris* is between 70-180µm in length and possesses three equal distant ridges running along the length of the cell. Its movement is leisurely and it swims by rotating through 180 degrees, never a full circle, and it has frequent pauses enabling excellent viewing under the microscope. This is the first viewing from SU80Y and I have only seen it previously from a collection of water sent to me from a lake in Leicestershire.

Reference

John, D.M., Whitton, B.A. & Brook, A.J. (2011). *The Freshwater Algal Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press.

Early bryologists

Brad Scott has written some fascinating articles on early Sussex bryology and bryologists: *Christopher Parker Smith, Eighteenth century bryology in Sussex*, and *Thomas Furlly Forster and the bryophytes of the Tunbridge Wells area*. Read them online at:

<https://sussexbryophytes.wordpress.com/2018/02/27/christopher-parker-smith-a-little-known-sussex-bryologist/>

<https://sussexbryophytes.wordpress.com/2018/03/02/eighteenth-century-bryology-in-sussex/>

<https://tinyurl.com/furly-forster>

Hawkweed help needed!

by Mike Shaw

Some of you may know that I am working on an identification guide to Hawkweeds in south-east England which will hopefully be published as a BSBI handbook. This is probably my last year for fieldwork and I would like to ask all members to report any new sites for *Hieracium* to me, preferably as soon as possible after discovery. It doesn't matter if they're not yet flowering, or if they've gone over,

but please however make a note of what stage they're at. If you are happy to do so, and the population is large enough to support collection, I would appreciate any specimens you can collect and press. I do have vouchers from many Sussex sites and if you are unsure if the site is new please get in touch with me by phone (01243 262095) or email (mshaw@doctors.org.uk). I am also keen for data and specimens from Surrey, Kent and Hampshire if any of you venture further afield.

The Churchyard Project: past, present and future

by Helen Proctor

A big thank you to the 43 members who participated in the project in the last two years. Your committed efforts have resulted in the collection of over 30,000 records from churchyards and cemeteries. These form a 21st century review of the condition of these open green spaces.

The records from 2016 and 2017 have been amalgamated and include all those from sites where at least two visits were made and the records submitted up to September 30th 2017. The highest number of visits was to Ocklynge Cemetery by Matthew. His thirteen visits resulted in the collection of 212 records including 30 grass species! Many members made three visits as requested, throughout the season. A few members made five visits to sites where botanical interest justified more recording time. Numbers of records are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of records and sites

	West Sussex	East Sussex
Number of Records	14,876	15,443
Number of sites recorded	141	143
Average number of species per site	105.5	107.9
Number of grass species ranged from	2 to 21	3 to 30
Average number of grass species per site	12	10.58

Analyses of records

Analyses were carried out on the completed records in an effort to assess the relative 'botanical richness' of the different sites. A method of scoring was devised based on indicators of ancient semi-natural woodland and unimproved grassland. A score of '1' was given to most of the indicator species. For unimproved grassland, a score of '2' was allocated to taxa which indicated a long period with no disturbance. A score of '3' was given for orchids, which are often the least tolerant of unsympathetic management.

Iping Marsh, Lurgashall and Milland in West Sussex scored highest for indicators of ancient semi-natural woodland; in East Sussex St John's Church in Crowborough and Church-in-the-Wood at Hollington. Among the least frequently recorded indicator species in churchyards and cemeteries were *Epipactis helleborine*, *Melica uniflora*, *Polystichum setiferum* and *Lysimachia nemorum*. While the last taxon occurs frequently in damp Wealden woods it has been recorded in very few wooded churchyards and cemeteries.

In West Sussex, Coolhurst, Ebernoe and Staplefield churchyards were the highest scoring for species characteristic of unimproved grassland with scores of 30, 30 and 28 respectively. It was pleasing to see records of *Achillea ptarmica*, *Betonica officinalis*, *Briza media*, *Euphrasia officinalis* ssp. *anglica* and other less common species being cared for in churchyards. In East Sussex, outstanding churchyards were Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne (score of 28), Spithurst (24), St. John's Church, Crowborough (22) which retained an 'Ashdown Forest-like' flora, and Burwash Common (22) with its varied habitats of meadow, heath and woodland. In some churchyards, common

indicator species such as *Centaurea nigra* and *Trifolium pratense* were missing, possibly due to a frequent mowing regime.

A delightful find by our Hastings botanists was *Ornithopus perpusillus* growing on bare sand in St. Andrews Churchyard, Fairlight. This is one of only two sites in East Sussex where *Pedicularis sylvatica* has been recorded. A few churchyards hosted wetland species such as *Filipendula ulmaria*, sometimes as a result of a leaking downpipe!

Cemeteries, especially the larger ones, tended to be species-rich and included several indicator species. It is thought that the size of the sites may cause the mowing or strimming to be staggered over days or weeks. This may give some plants in different areas more chance to set seed before being cut down. Plants under trees where the grass is less vigorous may miss the strimmer, such as the magnificent group of *Campanula rotundifolia* in Lewes Cemetery.

The number of sites with high indicator scores are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Sites with high indicator scores for ancient semi-natural woodland and unimproved grassland

	West Sussex	East Sussex
Sites with ancient woodland indicators, scoring 5+	15	23
Sites with unimproved grassland indicators, scoring 10+	22	24
Sites with orchids	20	33

The ages of churches

The churchyards with the best quality flora on this system of scoring seem frequently to belong to the ‘younger’ churches built in the 19th century, such as Coolhurst, Crawley Down, Spithurst and Hadlow Down. Exceptions to this theory are the medieval churches of Slaugham, Itchingfield and Fittleworth.

Historical records

An attempt was made to compare the 1980s records of Binsted Church near Arundel with recent records. Comparison of the records left doubts about the reliability of some of the older records. Very similar records in both years suggested some misidentification was possible in either recording. Three species had possibly been overlooked recently. Only one visit in the year had been requested in the 1980s so the records may have been incomplete. However, there were nine fewer records in 2016 than in 1982. There were 36 losses and 24 gains including Nettles and Daisies. Thanks are due to Georgina Judd for her help with the exercise.

Management of churchyards and cemeteries

A few churchyards are being actively managed for our native flora. At St. Wilfrid’s Church, Haywards Heath, Dr Margaret Pilkington has been leading conservation work parties. Some publicity has initiated a conservation-led approach to management at Fletching and Arlington.

Survey forms

The perceived management method does not always correlate with the quality of the flora and species present. Grass cuttings are soon composted into the ground to become invisible. They add nitrates to the soil, providing fertile conditions for robust species which then overwhelm the less common meadow plants. If the ground is uneven or obstructed, the only machine that can be used is a strimmer, which then involves the need for manual raking up of the arisings. A contractor who will do this is exceptional!

Recording in 2018

If you are new to recording, please contact Helen who will try and find you a ‘buddy’ to work with.

Records should be entered on the Excel spreadsheet ver.1.7 so that they can be entered into the BSBI database and for compatibility with other Excel functions. The full instructions are on the website, under the tabs <http://www.sussexflora.org.uk/projects/new-churchyard-survey-sussex/>. Guidelines are at: <http://www.sussexflora.org.uk/get-involved/recording/>.

If the file does not generate the BRC code automatically, please look this up on the tab at the base of the entry form.

PLEASE:

1. Register your interest in recording a churchyard or cemetery with Helen (non-members via surveys@sussexflora.org.uk). A list of unrecorded churchyards and cemeteries will be posted on the website. Previously visited sites with low numbers of records can also be revisited.
2. Make at least three visits in the year, comprising a spring visit up to May 31st, a mid-summer visit in June and/or July and a late summer visit in August or up to mid-September.
3. Record species **once** only. Entering records on a hard copy of the downloadable recording sheet in a different colour at each visit avoids duplication.
4. Enter the status of non-native species in the 'Status' column, whether casual (C) or established (E). Planted trees and shrubs, if described as very large, are being included but **not** planted garden plants which have not become established. If you suspect that native plants such as Primrose and Cowslip have been planted, please add a note in the 'Comments' column.
5. Use the 'Comments' column for notes on frequency and habitats of interesting species.
6. Take a six-figure grid reference at the **centre** of the churchyard or cemetery. If the churchyard falls into two tetrads, two lists and two centred grid references will be needed. Enter the grid reference in the 'Comments' column **below** the records.
7. Retain the file name as generated and insert the location and 'churchyard' or 'cemetery' at the **front** of the file name.
8. Note the grassland management, as before on the survey form or, if it is easier, in the 'Comments' column below the records on the Excel form. The charity 'Caring for God's Acre' has a freely downloadable booklet, *The Burial Ground Botanical Companion*, which suggests methods of assessing grassland quality: <http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/images/uploads/botanical-companion/Burial%20Ground%20Botanical%20Companion%20Booklet.pdf>.

PLEASE SEND RECORDS ON THE EXCEL FORM VERY SOON AFTER EACH VISIT AND THE LAST VISIT'S RECORDS BY SEPTEMBER 15th

If you find that you will not be able to complete all the visits, please let Helen know so that she can reallocate the recording.

Survey forms

Please do continue to submit survey forms. Extra information is appreciated on the current management of churchyards and cemeteries, such as the frequency and method of grass cutting. For the 19th century churchyards and cemeteries the history of the previous land use and its management would also be useful. Notes on the origins of planted trees and whether they commemorate a local benefactor or VIP and notes on geology, topography if appropriate and other wildlife could be added too.

Above all, thank you for participating. Enjoy!

Notable records 2017

Selected by Matthew Berry from the many interesting records received. All are from 2017 unless noted otherwise.

West Sussex VC13

Species	Location	Tetrad	Status	Comments	Rec
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	Prinsted	SU70S	N		SBRS
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	Butcherland Farm area	SU92Y	N		DNE
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	Pagham, North Wall	SZ89T	N		DNE
<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Storrington	TQ01X	N	Recreation ground.	DES
<i>Crocus tommasinianus</i> x <i>C. vernus</i>	Milland Chapel	SU82J	E		DNE

<i>Daucus carota</i> ssp. <i>gummifer</i>	Pagham	SZ89Y	E	Several spots on shingle beach.	DNE/ JOA
<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	Fitzlea Wood	SU91P	N	One plant. New hectad record.	SBRS
<i>Euphrasia pseudokernerii</i>	Levin Down	SU81W	N	1st formal record here since 2002.	N&ES
<i>Euphrasia tetraquetra</i>	Church Norton	SZ89S	N	Discovered by Ian and Gill Twyford in 2016. Det. CME.	N&ES
<i>Gaudinia fragilis</i>	Storrington	TQ01S	C	Pulborough Road, first seen in 2014 and still present.	DES
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Sandgate Park	TQ11C	E		SBRS
<i>Hieracium festinum</i>	Weavers Down	SU83A	N	First Sussex record. 2016. Conf. D.McCosh.	MMS
<i>Hieracium pollichiae</i>	Ashfold	TQ22J	N	Banks of Carter's Lodge Lane. Refind of 1965 record. Conf. D.McCosh.	MMS
<i>Hieracium rigens</i>	Tillington	SU92Q	N	Conf. D.McCosh.	MMS
<i>Hieracium virgultorum</i>	Ansty	TQ22W	N	Pickwell Lane. 2016 Conf. D.McCosh.	MMS
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Weald and Downland Living Museum	SU81R	A	Last recorded here 2007.	N&ES
<i>Primula vulgaris</i> var. <i>caulescens</i>	Chithurst Churchyard	SU82L	N	Infraspecific taxon: little or no up-to-date distributional information.	DNE
<i>Primula vulgaris</i> var. <i>caulescens</i>	Elsted Churchyard	SU81E	N		DNE
<i>Symphytum x norvicense</i>	Elsted	SU81E	C	First Sussex record. Det. R.Leaney	DNE
<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>galeopsifolia</i>	Nutbourne Marsh	SU70S	N	New tetrad record.	SBRS

East Sussex VC14

Species	Location	Tetrad	Status	Comments	Rec
<i>Acer cappadocicum</i> 'lobelii'	Lewes	TQ41B	C	Two seedlings, base of wall of Harveys Few Sussex records.	PAH
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Eastbourne Sovereign Harbour	TQ60K	C	Few recent records E of Brighton.	MBE
<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	Newhaven	TQ40K	C	One plant waste ground	JMR
<i>Digitalis lutea</i>	Eastbourne Meads	TV69D	E	Few Sussex records	MBE
<i>Epilobium x aggregatum</i>	Heathfield Area	TQ52Q	N	Garden. 1st Sussex record since 1995.	DTS/ GDK
<i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i>	Eastbourne Sovereign Harbour	TQ60L	A	One plant soil heap.	MBE
<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> ssp. <i>anglica</i>	Fairlight churchyard	TQ81K/ Q	N	No records for this part of E.Sussex.	JAR
<i>Euphrasia pseudokernerii</i>	Seaford Head	TV59D	N	No recent records this tetrad. Det. ES	N&ES
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	Berwick	TQ50C	N	Old chalk pit. 1st rec. here since 1998.	PSM
<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	Newhaven	TQ40K	C	1st VC14 record since 1998.	JMR
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	Icklesham	TQ81Y	C	In churchyard.	JAR/ EMC
<i>Nicotiana sylvestris</i>	Brede	TQ81J	C	Base of wall along main road.	SBRS
<i>Panicum capillare</i>	Eastbourne	TQ60A	C	One plant, grounds of hospital.	MBE
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Beddingham	TO40I	E	At landfill site.	PSM/ HMP
<i>Physalis alkekengi</i>	Newhaven	TQ40K	C	On soil heap by former pen factory	JMR
<i>Rubus x pseudoidaeus</i>	Lewes area	TQ31V	N	Cuckoo Bottom area below Race Course. 1st recent VC14 record.	AS
<i>Taraxacum anceps</i>	Patcham	TQ30E	U	1st Sussex record. Sp. not yet described, so name may change. By Horsdean recreation ground. Det AJR.	AS
<i>Taraxacum tumentilobum</i>	Brighton	TQ30I	U	First Sussex record. In Pope's Folly. Det AJR.	AS
<i>Tulipa clusiana</i>	Seaford Head LNR	TV59D	S	First Sussex record.	CLB
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Newhaven	TQ40K	C	Riverside Pk. 2nd VC14 record >1981.	MBE/ JMR

Recorders' and determiners' initials

AJR	A.J. Richards	JAR	Jacqueline Rose
AS	Tony Spiers	JMR	Janice Reynolds
CLB	Christopher Brewer	JOA	Jill Oakley
DES	Sue Denness	MBE	Matthew Berry
DNE	Dawn Nelson	MMS	Mike Shaw
DTS	David Streeter	N&ES	Nick & Elisabeth Sturt
EMC	Ellen Campbell	PAH	Paul Harmes
ES	Elisabeth Sturt	PSM	Peter Smith
GDK	Geoffrey Kitchener	SBRS	Sussex Botanical Recording Society
HMP	Helen Proctor		