

Sussex Botanical Recording Society

Newsletter

No. 49

January 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My best wishes to you all for 2000, with my hope that there will be many years of happy recording, with interesting and new finds to come. Talking with Francis Rose on future records, he suggests that we should be looking out for, and finding along our Sussex coast, *Otanthus maritimus* Cottonweed. Francis says that it is so abundant just across the Channel - as, for example, at Cherbourg - that he predicts that it will surely be found on our side of the Channel before long. Peter Marren in his excellent book *Britain's Rare Flowers* (1999) describes the 'beauty of this fluffy seaside flower, with its cups of yellow set on fleecy stems'. Short-lived colonies have been recorded from the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly, and seven English counties, but not yet from Sussex. Gerard knew of this plant at Mersea Island in Essex, and in 1621 John Goodyer recorded a single plant on the 'Iland of Haylinge'. With our warmer climate favouring the colonisation and spread of Mediterranean coastal plants, such as *Polygonum maritimum* Sea Knotgrass, the possibilities for *Otanthus* should be high? I would add also a strong recommendation for Peter Marren's book - it is packed with interesting facts on Britain's rare plants. Should Santa Claus have brought you a book token - look no further! Good hunting!

Mary Briggs

INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Committee is currently reviewing the information which is sent out to new and prospective members of the Society. We will include details of our aims, recording methods and so on, and would welcome suggestions from our present members. What information would you like to have been given when you joined the SBRs? All ideas will be gratefully received - please let any of the Committee members have your thoughts in time for the next Committee meeting, which will be held just before the next AGM in March 2000.

Frances Abraham

Secretary's Notes

Dates for your Diary

Saturday, 18th March 2000

Annual General Meeting, 2.00 p.m. at Staplefield Village Hall followed by a showing of members' slides and finishing with tea and cakes or biscuits.

Saturday, 4th November 2000

Autumn Get-together. 10.00 am. at Staplefield Village Hall. Soup and jacket potatoes will be available for lunch and tea and cakes later in the afternoon. Please bring any items of interest or specimens for display round the room and also plants for sale.

Rita Hemsley

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Chairman's Note

Biodiversity Action Plans

In Newsletter No 47 (January 1999), I gave a brief account of BAPs, HAPs and SAPs. It is worth considering how SBRS can contribute to those. In our Rules, originally drawn up in 1979, our aims are stated as:

- (a) Recording for the purpose of updating Sussex plant records.
- (b) Co-operation with other bodies and private individuals by carrying out surveys of plant communities in Sussex on an ecological basis for scientific, conservation or planning purposes.

In respect of Habitat Action Plans and perhaps particularly Species Action Plans, I would expect SBRS to be consulted by the Lead Partners concerned. In Sussex the Partners comprise English Nature, Environment Agency, the two County Councils, RSPB, FWAG and Sussex Wildlife Trust. As an example, I represent SBRS on a West Sussex Road Verges HAP working group (chaired by Ann Griffiths for West Sussex County Council).

As well as action at County level, local authority Districts are producing their own BAPs; both Chichester and Arun are involved in this and I have had an input into each of these. At District level (and also some Parishes are producing their own BAPs), there is more emphasis on community involvement and education. I believe there is a role here for SBRS as part of our Aim (b) above, and I hope members will respond positively to any opportunities in this respect. For example, a summer evening botanical ramble for non-botanists might be a possibility, or advice on management of a village pond.

Because BAPs are being produced at various levels, from National to Parish, there is a risk of confusion over responsibilities and overlapping of actions. This should be avoided if there is proper co-operation. If you have an opportunity of being involved in a BAP initiative and are uncertain what to do, please get in touch with me.

Rod Stern

Plant Recording in 2000

Recording for Atlas 2000 is now complete and we would like to express our thanks for all the records you sent in and also for helping us in the last year by sending the information in on a regular basis.

However, you will be delighted to hear that there is still plenty of recording to be done. The Atlas 2000 data provides us with an excellent information base but it is far from complete - as shown by the fact that we had interesting new records coming in right up to the deadline.

The next step in our recording is to improve the quality of our recorded data. There are a number of ways in which this can be done and you can contribute to these.

The first is to get better information on our scarcer native species. When you find scarce plants (those not printed on our recording card or marked with a "+" on the card) please send us as much information as you can. This should ideally include the following information:

- A 6 figure grid reference - absolutely essential
- A description of the site and the habitat - e.g. "East edge of meadow, 10m from hedge in a damp hollow".
- A statement of the size of the population - e.g. one plant, patch 50cm in diameter, 100's of plants scattered through edge of wood over 100m.
- A list of associated species - i.e. those growing within a metre or so of the plant(s) being recorded

We would also like repeat records of these species so that we can judge more effectively how things change from year to year. We know that some species appear in the same place and in roughly the same numbers every year. Others do so in most years but may be particularly affected by particular climatic conditions in a given year e.g. a cold wet spring, a very dry summer etc.. Then there are the species which vary greatly and apparently erratically from year to year. We would like to build a better picture of these changes so send in data regularly. Please note that, for this purpose, the location and population information are essential.

If there are particular species you would like to "adopt" for the purpose of more detailed

recording please let us know at the spring get-together so that we can co-ordinate activities.

We would also like to improve our recording of species which have been newly found in Sussex either because they have just arrived or because we have missed them in the past. A good example of the latter is *Poa infirma* for which we now have 4 sites in West Sussex but there must be more.

One of the fascinating questions for the future is the implication of climate change – to what extent will it happen and what effect will it have on our flora? We would like to establish a baseline of high quality recording information for specified areas which can be used in the future as a reference point against which to judge any change. This needs to be planned with some care so the committee are in the process of deciding how best to do this and we hope to let you have more information at the AGM or in the spring newsletter.

For the moment the message is simple - keep recording, there are lots of interesting things to find and please keep sending us your records with as much information on the scarcer plants as possible.

Send West Sussex (VC13) records to Mary Briggs or Alan Knapp and East Sussex (VC14) records to Paul Harmes or Arthur Hoare. Don't worry if you are uncertain - just then send them to any of us and we will give them to the correct people (but please – do remember the grid references).

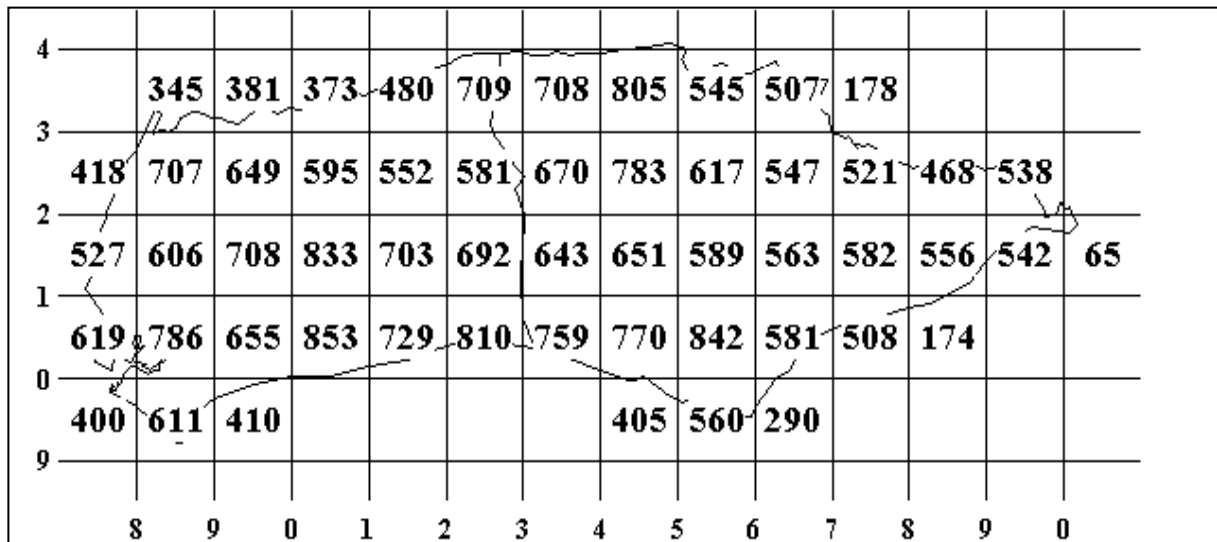
Alan, Arthur, Mary & Paul

Atlas 2000 Project

Over the last few years the Sussex Botanical Recording Society has been extremely busy gathering records for this ambitious project. So many members have contributed to this enormous task, far too many of you to mention individually. However, the committee would like to express its gratitude to all of you who took time to partake, it has been vital to the ultimate success of the venture. Therefore, on behalf of the committee, I would like to say a truly heartfelt thank-you to you all.

Paul Harmes

Final Atlas 2000 totals for Sussex



Well, that's it – the Atlas 2000 recording is over and all the data has been submitted. Most of the 1999 records were sent off a couple of weeks before the deadline but we had a few final records which went off by email on the last day. The map shows the number of records finally submitted for each square. For those of you who like statistics here are some figures you may find interesting (a more detailed analysis will appear in the Spring newsletter).

- The total number of different species recorded was just over 1,900
- The total number of records submitted to Atlas 2000, counting only one record for each species in each square, was 31,700 (15,730 in VC13 and 15,970 in VC14).
- Because many species were recorded by several people the total number received by the vice county recorders during the recording period was well over 50,000 (i.e. over 4000 per year on average).
- Excluding squares TQ73 & TR01 where only a very small part falls in our area, the average number of records per square over the whole county was 594 (605 in VC13 and 582 in VC14).

Alan Knapp

Just in time

Of the Atlas 2000 records we sent in at the last moment, two were for *Polygonum rurivagum* in W.Sussex (VC13). Although they had arrived on time we had to send them off to the BSBI *Polygonum* referee, Dr. John Akeroyd, before accepting them. John was very efficient and provided a rapid response to our query so confirmation for both records arrived just in time for inclusion in the Atlas. What is particularly interesting is that we had received only two previous records for this species since 1987, one from each vice county. So 50% of our records for this species were found in the last month of recording!

Although very scarce, *P.rurivagum* is probably on the increase, so please look out for it. Look in arable fields on sandy or chalky soils at the very end of the summer for any plants which look like *P.aviculare* but which have very narrow leaves and often are not prostrate, at least in the lower part, are upright although the upper part often flops over. According to John Akeroyd it is appearing increasingly on introduced soil so it could also appear in disturbed places like road verges.

Alan Knapp

EAST SUSSEX FIELD MEETINGS

1999

Pevensay

Hunting for missing species, mostly urban ones, in TQ6O 'that should have been there' was the aim of this first meeting. However, despite a trip up to Glynleigh where there was a scrap of woodland, *Anemone nemorosa* Wood Anemone was searched for in vain but in compensation an old pond was found with a good stand of *Carex riparia* Greater Pond-sedge.

Following lunch on the Green at Westham a walk around the Castle walls produced *Poa humilis* Spreading Meadow-grass, *Saxifraga tridactylites* Rue-leaved Saxifrage and *Erophila glabrescens* Glabrous Whitlowgrass. More ground was covered by splitting into two groups, one group going into the churchyard and the other walking the streets peering into gutters and over garden walls, looking for common plants often found missing from record cards.

Burgh Hill Farm

The SSSI at Burgh Hill Farm is a wet meadow, called Susannah's Field by the owner, in memory of his late wife for it was she who saved it from being 'improved' on the very morning that the machinery arrived to drain it (in the days when grants were freely given for such work). At the time of our visit it was rather overgrown as it had not been cut or grazed the previous year but nevertheless both *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* Common Spotted and *D. maculata* Heath Spotted Orchids were common and there were some very stout spikes of *D. x grandis*.

However, the best record of the day was the discovery of eleven specimens of *Platanthera chlorantha* Greater Butterfly-orchid in nearby Kiln Wood where there were four flowering plants, and in the adjacent woodland, which had been clear-felled a few years ago, there were another nine. Possibly more would have been found if the leader hadn't misjudged the time it would take to get back to the carpark and LUNCH.....

Brightling Mine

How unexpected it was to record plants from the depth of the Weald which would have been more at home on the Downs, plants such as *Sanguisorba minor* Salad Burnet, *Echium vulgare* Viper's Bugloss, *Blackstonia perfoliata* Yellow-wort and *Asperula cynanchica* Squinancywort but all these and more were on a sloping bank near the mine entrance. Scattered amongst them were a few *Anacamptis pyramidalis* Pyramidal Orchids and about 50 *Ophrys apifera* Bee Orchids. Away from the mine a walk alongside the rope-way produced plants more typical of the area including *Lithospermum officinale* Common Gromwell in

quantity, *Sanicula europaea* Sanicle and *Sedum telephium* Orpine; David Lang confirmed *Hedera helix* ssp. *hibernica* Atlantic Ivy.

Icklesham

On a very hot day in July five SBRS members and three from Kent Field Club met at Elms Farm where several acres of arable land have been flooded to create a large area of open water as a bird reserve. Thousands of birds are ringed annually and visitors have included Bitterns, Bearded Tits, and Common Terns. *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* Grey Club-rush was the dominant plant, which made it difficult to reach the open water, but a bit of fishing with a long walking stick produced *Potamogeton pusillus* Lesser Pondweed and a Bladderwort, fortunately in flower, which was later identified by Alan Knapp as *Utricularia australis*.

In a field on rising ground away from the water many species of arable weeds were found including *Anthemis arvensis* Corn Chamomile, *Chrysanthemum segetum* Corn Marigold, *Stachys arvensis* Field Woundwort and exotics such as *Datura stramonium* Thorn-apple, *Amaranthus retroflexus* Common Amaranth and *Echium plantagineum* Purple Viper's Bugloss though by the time these three had been found it dawned that they must all have been planted as food for wintering birds, which was later confirmed by the Warden.

Catsfield

As TQ70 was the 10km square in VC 14 with fewest records a meeting was held there in September. Members split into two groups to cover most ground, one covering the village and adjacent woods and lakes while the other one visited the NE corner of the square to sheep-grazed fields surrounded by ditches which had recently been cleaned out. New records here included *Rosa stylosa* Short-styled Field-rose and *Elymus caninus* Bearded Couch, a grass rare in East Sussex and more commonly found in West. Interesting plants from the village environs included *Eleogitan fluitans* Floating Club-rush, *Menyanthes trifoliata* Bogbean, *Spergularia rubra* Sand Spurrey and *Ornithopus perpusillus* Bird's-foot.

The most unexpected find was one spike of *Epipactis helleborine* Broad-leaved Helleborine growing up through concrete at the base of an oak tree on the forecourt of a factory building alongside the busy A21. After lunch, a trip was made to Hollingwood where most plants were recorded whilst dodging cars on a busy narrow road with high banks. Finally on reaching the bungaloid outskirts of Bexhill *Spiranthes spiralis* Autumn Lady's-tresses was frequent on the wide grass verges.

With many thanks to those who led meetings: Alan Knapp, Rachel Nicholson and Helen Proctor.

Pat Donovan

WEST SUSSEX FIELD MEETINGS 1999

Madehurst

For our first meeting of the year on March 27th Arthur Hoare led us to the Madehurst area to try to re-find *Daphne mezereum* Mezereon, which used to be known here. We didn't find it, but had an enjoyable day in beautiful sunny weather. In the morning we explored Baycombe Wood - mainly chalky, but with one area of clay with flints. We saw a good range of woodland species such as *Anemone nemorosa* Wood Anemone, *Ruscus aculeatus* Butcher's-broom and *Daphne laureola* Spurge-laurel, with a few *Orchis mascula* Early Purple-orchids and *Listera ovata* Twayblades. In the afternoon we were delighted by Madehurst churchyard, where masses of *Primula veris* Cowslips were in early bud. *Erophila verna* Common Whitlowgrass was in flower beside the church. We admired the ferns on the church walls, which included *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* Black Spleenwort and *A. ruta-muraria* Wall-rue.

West Grinstead

In June Arthur also led our West Grinstead meeting. In the morning we looked at three unimproved meadows at Walden Close at the request of the local County Council ranger. They had a rich flora of old grassland species such as *Achillaea ptarmica* Sneezewort, *Stachys officinalis* Betony, *Silene silaus* Pepper-saxifrage and *Lysimachia nummularia* Creeping Jenny. A small meadow near the house contained abundant *Orchis morio* Green-veined Orchid - in fruit at the time of our visit. An unusual find here was the introduced *Hypericum hircinum* Stinking Tutsan. After lunch beside the old railway station and some splendid *Ophrys apifera* Bee Orchids, we walked southwards down the old railway track, now the Downslink path. We saw a good variety of trees, shrubs and grassland species beside the track, and admired *Lathyrus nissolia* Grass Vetchling in flower on a grassy bank nearby. In an arable field beside the track we found *Euphorbia platyphyllos* Broad-leaved Spurge.

Kingley Vale

On July 3rd many members gathered for Rod Stern's Kingley Vale meeting. Before reaching the Reserve we looked at the rich arable weed flora in fields beside the track, which included *Valerianella dentata* Narrow-fruited Corn-salad. The introduced *Staphylea pinnata* Bladdernut grew near the Reserve entrance. We walked through the yew woods to chalk scrub and grassland. *Rosa stylosa* was seen in a scrubby area. On the chalky slopes numerous *Coeloglossum viride* Frog Orchid were much photographed, and on the top of the hill we were interested to see *Catapodium rigidum* Fern-grass as well as both *Aira* Hair-grass species. On our way back downhill the very rich turf beside the western

track produced *Thesium humifusum* Bastard Toadflax and *Euphrasia pseudokernerii* Eyebright.

Blackdown

In early August we visited National Trust land in the NW of the County. We started off high on Blackdown, looking at heathland, woodland and small boggy pools near the summit. The pools were rather dry after hot weather, but we recorded *Eriophorum vaginatum* Hare's-tail Cottongrass and *E. angustifolium* Common Cottongrass. Nearby we saw heathland and acid grassland species such as *Carex binervis* Green-ribbed Sedge, *Danthonia decumbens* Heath Grass and *Ceratocarpus claviculata* Climbing Corydalis. In the afternoon we moved on to Valewood Park which, although much of it consists of semi-improved grassland, also has an interesting area of unimproved marshy grassland. The abundance of *Mimulus guttatus* Monkeyflower was eye-catching, but we then settled down to the quieter pleasures of *Veronica scutellata* Marsh Speedwell, *Isolepis setacea* Bristle Club-rush. *Carex echinata* Star Sedge and *C. panicea* Carnation Sedge. Rod showed us the beautiful wet grassland moss *Physcomitrium pyriforme* here. Another highlight was *Epipactis purpurata* Violet Helleborine in a hedgebank beside the track.

Rogate

For our last meeting of the year on September 5th Nick Sturt led us on a joint outing with the Hampshire Flora Group. In the morning we divided into two groups on the Sussex side of the border near Rogate. Nick's group looked at sandy verges and heathland near Down Park Farm - the verges were especially interesting, with *Malva neglecta* Dwarf Mallow. *Geranium pusillum* Small-flowered Crane's-bill and two patches of *Potentilla argentea* Hoary Cinquefoil. Damp grassland nearby produced *Carex disticha* Brown Sedge. Meanwhile, Alan's group headed to the Rother, where they recorded *Potamogeton crispus* Curled Pondweed. *Ranunculus hederaceus* Ivy-leaved Water-crowfoot was a good find in a muddy pool, and *x Festulolium loliaceum*, the hybrid between *Festuca pratensis* Meadow Fescue and *Lolium perenne* Perennial Rye-grass, was seen in a meadow. Aliens by a disused railway bridge included *Saxifraga x urbium* Londonpride and *Persicaria amplexicaulis* Red Bistort.

In the afternoon we divided into smaller groups to look at under-recorded tetrads in Hampshire. It was very enjoyable to meet our friendly Hampshire neighbours, to 'see how the other lot do it', and to exchange botanical gossip.

I would like to thank all the leaders of the meetings, and to say a special thank you to Nick Sturt, who will be taking over as W. Sussex Field Meetings Convener this year.

Frances Abraham

BINDERS FOR BSBI NEWS

British Loose Leaf can provide binders of a suitable size for BSBI News. Each binder is in green leathercloth and supplied with 20 wires, although the maximum number of issues of the current thickness is about 12 per binder.

I am proposing to order some more for myself and am prepared to submit a bulk order to include other BSBI members who are also members of SBRS. The price for each binder is significantly lower for larger orders, and for example is about £7 each for every 50 ordered and about £5 each for every 100 ordered.

Any member who is interested should contact me.

Rod Stern.

THE RON BONIFACE FIELD NOTES

Ron Boniface was an assiduous and accurate field recorder, who kept very neat notes. He had a special interest in hunting for and re-finding old records of uncommon plants. His initials 'RAB' are found frequently in Wolley-Dod's *Flora of Sussex* and the *Sussex Plant Atlas* against interesting records.

When Ron died his family gave me his field record books in which he had listed the plants (including bryophytes) in a number of localities, with the date(s) on which he visited, and often a small sketch map of the area also. Although based in Middlesex, Ron visited an aunt in Eastbourne for many years, at the same time plant-hunting in East Sussex, and later he also visited West Sussex, often with his great friend Ted Wallace. The books include lists from some other counties in England and Scotland, and they were compiled mainly from the 1940's to the 1960's (so some of the plant names are now out-dated).

We were anxious to make these lists available to SBRS members, but deterred as they are written in soft pencil unlikely to survive handling. However, first Rosetta Harmes kindly typed and indexed a list of sites, and now Frances Abraham has found that they photocopy well and so has offered to post copies.

If you are interested in a particular site, please send Frances an A5 or A4 SAE, with lowish denomination stamps to cover the cost of photocopying at 5p per sheet. The following list gives the Sussex sites available, with date(s), and with the number of sheets covering each site in brackets.

VC 13

Amberley Wild Brooks 1949-75 (4)
Ambersham/Heyshott Commons 1957 (5)
Arundel Park 1948-74 (6)
Blackdown 1950-64 (5)
Clymping Sands 1946-74 (3)
Duncton/Barlavington Downs 1957, 1961 (2)
Fishbourne Marshes 1950-78 (3)
Fyning Moor 1957, 1958 (2)
Henfield & Broadmere Commons
/Barrow Hill 1956-62 (6)
Hunston Wood 1966 (2)
Hurstons Warren
/West Chiltington Common 1947-64 (4)
Iping/Stedham Commons 1953-66 (4)
Leonardslee 1965 (2)
The Mens area 1956, 1957 (2)
St Leonards Forest 1943-65 (10)
Shillinglee Lake 1964, 1972 (2)
Shoreham Beach 1946 (1)
Slinfold 1960's (5)
South Harting 1961 (1)
Sutton Hangers 1966 (2)
Warnham Mill Pond 1952-66 (2)
West Wittering Sands 1952, 1966 (2)
Wolstonbury 1956-8 (3)

VC14

Ashdown Forest 1948-66 (3)
Balcombe Bog 1963, 1964 (1)
Beachy Head 1942-57 (4)
Camber 1933-74 (4)
Chailey Common 1942-71 (3)
Cophthorne Common 1959, 1965 (2)
Crumbles/Pevensay Bay 1936-76 (6)
Cuckmere Downs & flats 1952-65 (4)
Cuttingly Wood 1957 (2)
Dallington Forest/Brightling Down 1957 (3)
Darwell Wood 1957 (3)
Ditchling Common 1955-63 (2)
Falmer downs 1957-66 (4)
Hastings area 1943-69 (4)
Kingston Hollow 1952, 1957 (1)
Maplehurst Wood 1957 (2)
Wilmington/Windover/Lullington Heath 1949-64 (4)

Mary Briggs

OBITUARIES

PHYLLIS HILDA WHITE 1925-99

We are sorry to report the death last year of Phyl White who, although she never lived in the county, was an active contributor to Sussex botany. Phyl was a quantity surveyor by profession, but was interested in many aspects of natural history, & was introduced to the SBRS by Breda Burt.

T.C.G.Rich & J.E..Smith write of Phyl & her husband Ray:

"In 1967 they moved to Kent & joined the Kent Field Club. This involved them in recording for Eric Philp's *Atlas of the Kent Flora*. In 1987 they enthusiastically recorded for the BSBI Monitoring Scheme in Sussex and in Sutherland. After Ray died in 1989, Phyl moved to Warlingham, Surrey and continued to record with the Kent Field Club, SBRS and the Surrey Flora Committee. Between 1993 and 1996 she recorded for the *Flora of Ashdown Forest* (of which she was a co-author), building on her knowledge from the Monitoring Scheme.

Plant recording for Phyl combined her methodical quantity surveying skills with her love of the countryside. She was a very careful, meticulous recorder who took care to check details, and when and only when satisfied handed over the records neatly written out with annotations about the more unusual plants. We could do with many more reliable botanists like her."

We send our sympathy to her son Ian, who is an entomologist based at the Natural History Museum.

ERNIE GEORGE BURT

Very sadly I have to report the death in December of Ernie Burt, known to so many of us in the Society, especially as Breda's right hand man in the years when Breda was the VC Recorder for East Sussex.

Ernie was born at Boonsfield Farm, the old Sussex farmhouse to which he returned, and it was Breda and Ernie's home, where many of us visited on botanical occasions, always to receive a hospitable welcome. A sheep farmer by profession, after retirement Ernie was the photographer of the Burt partnership, helping at SBRS meetings in many ways. Breda recalled that in 1981 when they were quadrat recording at Camber Castle at the request of English Nature, it was Ernie who, at the end of a tiring day, suggested just one more throw of the quadrat frame, which led to the re-discovery of *Trifolium glomeratum*, Clustered Clover, thought at that time to be extinct in Sussex as it had not been recorded since 1902 (see *Sussex Plant Atlas*).

We shall miss Ernie, remembering him with his smile of friendship, and we send our affectionate sympathy to Breda, their son Michael and his wife Wendy, the grandchildren and their families. Ernie's ashes were returned to Sussex and scattered on a high cliff on their farm.

If anyone would like to send a memorial donation, these should go to the Rye Harbour Reserve c/o Sussex Wildlife Trust, or to the Marie Curie Cancer Foundation.

Mary Briggs

OBITUARIES

RON CLOUGH

It is with great sadness that I have to write of the sudden passing of Ron Clough on 8th June 1999.

A long-time interest in other aspects of natural history became focused on wild flowers when he and his wife Beryl joined the SBRS after seeing the *Sussex Plant Atlas* in Crawley library. It did not take us long to become good friends. When Ron retired, after an exacting business life, he was able to devote more time to the Society's affairs. He was serving on the Committee and doing much valuable work on maintaining the computer records.

Recently, he had made a great contribution to the project of updating the information on the distribution of *Arum* species in Sussex. He co-ordinated the results of the survey, and produced a paper on the subject which was published in BSBI News, as well as the SBRS Newsletter of May 1999.

Other local organisations, also, benefitted from the help Ron and Beryl were able to give with plant surveys. Undaunted by indifferent health he pursued his interests with great diligence and was a perfectionist in all he did. He was truly a gentleman.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Beryl and his family in their loss.

Rene Folkerd

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I would just like to add a note to Rene's tribute to Ron to say how grateful we are for his work on the newsletters. Without his meticulous care and skill, as well as his kindness and good humour, the transition to producing these larger & more professional-looking newsletters would have been far more difficult.

RON CLOUGH - A NOTE FROM ALAN KNAPP

The members of the society who were involved in processing the Atlas 2000 records are enormously grateful to Ron for his work putting the West Sussex (VC13) scarce plant records onto computer file. The magnitude of this task will be apparent from the fact that the file now contains over 3400 records, each with species name, grid reference, locality, recorder, date and comments. Ron tackled this with his usual care and good humour, the latter being especially needed in the early stages when a lot of changes were needed as we were in the process of developing a format which was compatible both with the computer processing of the Atlas 2000 data and also with the need to provide a neat and legible layout when printed.

SBRS FIELD MEETINGS 2000

- | | |
|--|--|
| Sun. March 26th
Alan Knapp | In search of <i>Poa infirma</i> . Meet in Winston Rd., Lancing at TQ 175034. (Turn N from A259 at traffic lights beside Brooklands Park into Western Rd. Soon turn right into Winston Rd.). Later we shall travel East, finishing in VC 14. |
| Sat. May 20th
Pat Donovan &
Margaret Hanton | Dallington Forest. To see <i>Convallaria majalis</i> and seek site of <i>Festuca altissima</i> . Take unmarked track (a touch bumpy) off B 2096 on north side of road (east of Woods Corner) at TQ 649195. Go past Cox's Mill and park at TQ 654206 (by iron gates). |
| Sat. June 3rd
Frances Abraham | Damp meadows at Watersfield with <i>Carex vulpina</i> & <i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i> . Meet at Watersfield recreation ground at TQ 012160. From the A29 turn NW up Sandy Lane (opposite pub & garage) then take left fork. Parking limited so please share cars if possible. |
| Sat. June 10th
Arthur Hoare | Wakehurst Place. Meet in the car park near the main entrance to the gardens at TQ 342317. The morning will be spent looking at some of the endangered British flora in the nursery beds and greenhouses. The afternoon can be enjoyed just wandering around the gardens. |
| Sat. June 17th
Paul Harmes | Wilmington. The Long Man. Chalk downland. Meet in Car Park at TQ 544042 south end of village, west side of road. |
| Sun. July 2nd
Pat Donovan &
Rebecca Barrett | Survey the grounds of Pestalozzi Children's Village, Sedlescombe. Park in reception area at TQ 789175. |
| Sat. July 22nd
Nick Sturt | Pagham seaside. Meet at Pagham Spit carpark at SZ 884964 (Pay & Display). From Nyetimber follow Pagham Rd SW, turning left (SE) into Sea Lane (dual carriageway); at end of Sea Lane turn right into Harbour Rd (in front of Pagham Beach Cafe); carpark at end of long unmade road - beware sleeping policemen and craters. |
| Sat. August 12th
Paul Harmes &
Barry Yates | Rye Harbour to seek new sites for <i>Lactuca saligna</i> . Meet in car park at TQ 942188 (We will then take a few cars down to the Reserve.) |
| Sun. August 20th
Rod Stern | Ambersham Common. Meet at SU910190. Park by crossroads N. of Hoyle. |
| Sat. September 9th
Mary Briggs &
Frances Abraham | Search for <i>Leersia oryzoides</i> in the Arun Valley. Meet beside Rackham Village Hall at TQ 049143, on W side of Rackham Street. We will look at <i>Leersia</i> at a known site at Rackham, then move on to search for it at other sites in the Arun Valley. |

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

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

If you have any queries, please contact Nick Sturt (West Sussex) or Pat Donovan (East Sussex)