

# WILTSHIRE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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# Botanical Society News

## Odds and Ends

Tim Kaye has left Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and moved to a new job in Herefordshire. He created and maintained a new website for us, and also a Facebook page. Sharon and Gilles have now taken these on. Tim entertained us with several picture shows for our entertainment during winter months. Good luck Tim - Wiltshire's loss is Hereford's gain ...

Martin Buckland arranged a cracking series of outings over the summer; even if you did not get to them, you will see this from the reports that follow. Many of these reports were written by him; he is a softy and steps in if no-one else has been co-opted. Please volunteer and lighten his load.

After many years of service, John Presland plans to leave the committee. You will find his catalogue of notable plant finds at the end of this newsletter and we hope he will continue to produce this. As well as being a wise and knowledgeable botanist, he also edits and publishes our occasional journal, Wiltshire Botany and has published several books - see below for his latest.

Sharon and I both take in records for the Atlas Update Project. We have not exchanged data yet, so will not know what progress has been made until later in the year. However, I have already received over 11,000 records since January. More news in the next newsletter.

## Visit to North Wales, July 2016

Dates: Thursday July 7 until Monday July 11 2016. This is a chance to spend a long weekend visiting habitats and plants not found in Wiltshire. Full board group accommodation is available but anyone wishing to is free to make their own arrangements. Guests welcome, whether botanists or not. For further details please see the separate sheet enclosed in this newsletter.

Pat Woodruffe

## Dave's Whitebeams

Dave has discovered two new species of Whitebeam (*Sorbus*), one of which bears his name - *Sorbus greenii* - see last summer's WBS newsletter. Well, Dave has been back to the Doward in Herefordshire, counting and mapping these and other *Sorbus* species, and even finding possible new species. He has put all this in print as an article in BSBI News (No. 130, September 2015, pp 12-16), even making the front cover with his photo of *D. greenii* in flower (it's the one on the back page of WBS Newsletter 43, but bigger and in colour). The article lists the various *Sorbus* species and hybrids on the Doward (14 in all). This group is often seen as rather difficult, but he

describes their stature and habitats, giving us a picture of what the trees are actually like. Maybe he will take us to see them one day.

## A New Book about Wiltshire Botany

John Presland's book *Botany for Naturalists: A Colour Guide* is still available on Amazon. It has, however, now been joined by another, which has a closer focus on Wiltshire - *Botany Where You Are*. It is a book for amateur naturalists, intended to stimulate increased interest in and enjoyment of botany through exploring in their local areas. It is based on actual botanising carried out in the parish of Winsley over forty years. John communicates and shares his knowledge and enthusiasm for a wide range of botanical activity, covering plants, algae, fungi and lichens, their communities and relationships with animals, recording, conservation and biodiversity, plant abnormalities and their implications for inheritance and evolution, non-natives and the future. In the process he paints a portrait of the botany of his parish and creates a botanical autobiography. The book is profusely illustrated in colour.



## Wiltshire Botanical Society Committee

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28<sup>th</sup> March 2015

## Dinton Beeches

Leaders: Anne Appleyard, Sue Fitzpatrick and Pat Woodruffe

Despite a poor forecast a group of us met at Dinton in a sudden burst of sunshine. However welcome, it was short lived and we did experience a few of the anticipated showers - but not enough to dampen spirits. We were delighted that Sue Fitzpatrick was able to walk with us, and indeed to lead the group, only accepting a lift back to the pub as we neared the end.



As good as they get in March: Goldilocks (L) and Moschatel (R)

and then into a sunken lane. Spring flowers were quite advanced in this sheltered spot and we were able to pick out the basal leaves of Goldilocks, *Ranunculus auricomus*. Walking through the hanging, we

mown bank outside a house. Our enjoyable morning was rounded off with an excellent lunch at the Wyndham Arms, in the village.

Pat Woodruffe

- photos by Pat -



Bravely flowering Wood Anemone

Our first finds were along the wall of the churchyard where some Barren Strawberry, *Potentilla sterilis* was seen together with Reflexed Stonecrop, *Sedum rupestre* and Navelwort, *Umbilicus rupestris*. The last is quite scarce in Wiltshire and has a markedly western distribution, most probably not venturing further east in VC8 than this location. Our walk took us into fields behind houses

found a few Bluebells, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* coming into flower, some Townhall Clock, *Adoxa moschatellina*, several Anemones, *Anemone nemoralis* in full flower and some Narcissi. Some of the Narcissi looked as if they might be the native *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus* but many others growing with them were cultivars, so it is not possible to be sure. Tom Smith did however mention that there was a copse of wild daffodils nearby, not far from the church. One of the specialities of this area is a profusion of Great Wood-rush, *Luzula sylvatica*. Again, in VC8 it has a westerly distribution although there are some records from the south-east corner. We were fortunate too to see a plant of its smaller cousin Hairy Wood-rush, *Luzula pilosa* and to be able to compare them.



Great Wood-rush inflorescence



Disappearing botanists

Leaving the beech hanging, the group returned to the car park, noting on the way an amazing tree full of mistletoe, *Viscum album* and also what was thought to be spotted medick, *Medicago arabica* growing on a



Mistletoe tree, Dinton





A good turnout

29<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## West Woods

The aim of today's meeting was to throw off any remaining winter blues and enjoy the spring blues of Bluebells throughout this well-known Wiltshire site. Thirteen members and guests attended including one Swindon resident who cycled all the way!

We timed this just right, Bluebells indeed were in full splendour and many a camera rattled off a few pictures particularly with the sun light streaking through the trees that were only just breaking into leaf.

We saw many typical or expected plants such as Primrose and Enchanter's Nightshade but what surprised many of us were the Wood Anemones that were hued pink, some almost quite rosy. Wild Daffodils also occur and although long past flowering we did manage to see some fruiting heads. No fruits yet for our strawberries but we saw and were able to discuss the differences between Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca* and Barren Strawberry *Potentilla sterilis*, flowers and leaves. Similarly, a group that puzzles many i.e. Violets, we were able to see both Common Dog-Violet *Viola riviniana* and Early Dog-Violet *Viola reichenbachiana* and compare their shape and colour also.

Heading back to the cars now we detoured down a bank and ditch for 'no particular reason' only to discover a dozen Hard Ferns *Blechnum spicant*. These were worthy of a record and GPS always on standby had their use for the day.

A fine and pleasant trip and our thanks go to Jane Brown and Paul Darby for leading.



Common Gromwell, with shiny white seeds from last year



Solomon's Seal

A brief stop at an open grassland site gave us Hoary Ragwort, Hairy St. John's Wort and Hedge Bedstraw before heading back to the wood via the Wansdyke track. Here we found Pignut and Greater Stitchwort and a single plant of Meadow Saffron.



15 May 2015

## Fonthill Abbey Woods

Leader: David Pickering



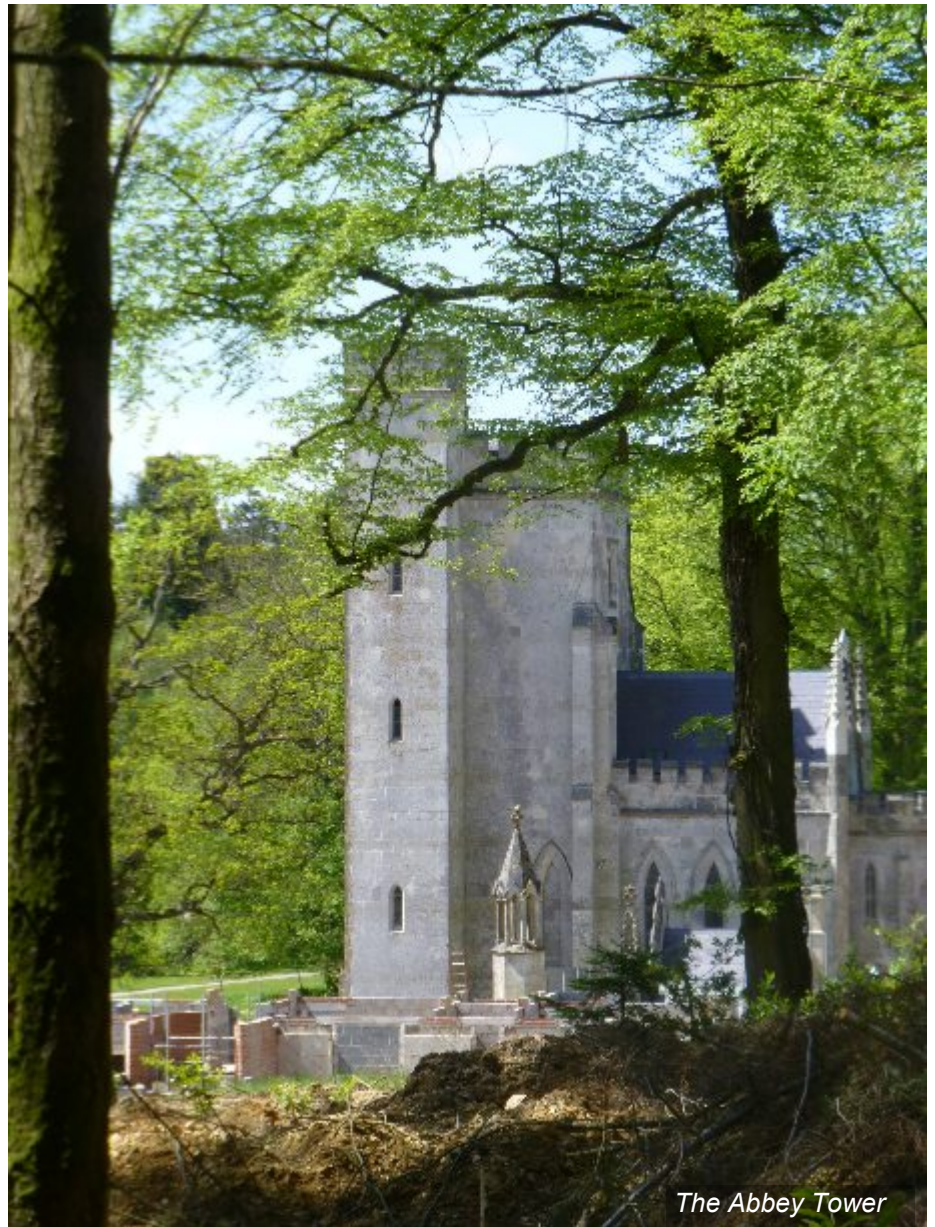
Yellow Pimpernel

David had again arranged access to this previously inaccessible site. The owner, Mrs Morant, could not be with us today, but had kindly left her scout hut open for us to make tea and coffee.

David led the four of us down the wide main avenue, looking beautiful with its fresh green beech leaves. Along the way, we tried to remind ourselves of the differences between Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and Downy Birch *Betula pubescens* - double-toothed as opposed to single-toothed leaves among other things. We decided on *B. pubescens*. Many places in this neutral to slightly acid woodland were carpeted with Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, flowering abundantly. We also saw a variety of woodrushes - Hairy (*Luzula pilosa*), Great (*L. sylvatica*) and Heath (*L. multiflora*) - and sedges - Pendulous (*Carex pendula*), Wood (*C. sylvatica*), Remote (*C. remota*) and Grey (*C. divulsa* subsp. *divulsa*).

We started in a kilometre square that we had explored last year, but David led us north into another which had no recent records, so it was worth making a species list for the atlas update.

Heading back south, we passed the remains of the abbey (see last summer's newsletter for a picture and some history). The surrounds are now a building site, where the owners are attaching their new house.



The Abbey Tower

We passed a few Hard Fern *Blechnum spicant* plants along the tracks and a sandstone rock exposure hosted both Hard and Soft Shield-ferns (*Polystichum aculeatum* and *P. setiferum*). The lake added Bulbous Rush *Juncus bulbosus* growing into the water and Slender Rush *Juncus tenuis*. Tree-sized Rhododendrons in a variety of colours added to the attraction of the lake.

Richard Aisbitt



Look at the size of it! This is a Goat Willow



23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

## Pertwood Organic Farm

Thanks to the organisation of Mr Nick Adams who also became our leader for the day the Society were able to gain access to parts of this estate not normally accessible to the public.

We parked and started our walk from a track nearby a new water reservoir and a 30m wide scar of land that Wessex Water have cut through the farm. (I understand there are three pipes below ground that will transport water from the north of the country to drier parts of the south). Although the soil (mostly chalk) had been replaced for some time the hoped-for germination of weed seeds had not occurred so we walked away slightly disappointed.

We were so desperate for a flower of interest that we had to stop near the corner of a field and all stare and debate a tall 'yellow job', a single composite all on its own. Was it Rough Hawk's-beard or Beaked Hawk's-beard?.....we moved on and how glad we did. The first arable field provided a few goodies like Sticky Mouse-ear *Cerastium glomeratum* but it was at a field formerly a Chicken



Venus's Looking-glass

paddock many years ago that we all stared open mouthed. We had already seen the usual culprits like Common Poppy, Field Pansy, Shepherd's Purse, Field Forget-me-not and the like but we began to find Venus' Looking-glass *Legousia hybrida* but then not just a few plants but carpets of it. We couldn't help but stand on it at the margins of the field. If that was not pinky-mauve enough then Field Madder *Sherardia arvensis* provided a background carpet as well. Truly a fantastic site to see.

Moving on we found more of these two in the next field but in nowhere near the same quantities, however we continued to add to our tally with plants like Red Bartsia, Wall Speedwell, Scentless Mayweed and one I like to see and that was Parsley-piert *Aphanes arvensis*.

After Lunch we moved onto some grass downland. A long discussion ensued as to its history and whether it had been improved or not. What was strange was that whilst there were expected chalk grasses such as Upright Brome and Yellow Oat-grass, we found Barren Brome spread across the top of the site. One would expect this with improved land, but the grassland was not that tall or enriched. It was also strange that we did not find Cowslip or Milkworts. A head puzzler indeed.

Moving across to an adjacent bank that did appear to have been improved or at least was much lusher we found carpets of Chalk Milkwort, Cowslip and Wild Thyme! Really nice was a patch of Meadow Saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata* near the top of the hill.

The day was very hot now and we ploughed our way back up the slope to the cars but not before we found another oddity a single plant of Pignut *Conopodium majus* flowering away without another near or in sight. Where had it come from?

We only discovered a fraction of the area that Pertwood has to offer; we may well come again for a few more surprises.

Martin Buckland

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

## Priddy Mineries SSSI

A dozen of us ventured into Somerset to meet Helena Crouch, BSBI Recorder for North Somerset, for this visit to the site of former lead mining activities, lured by the promise of habitats and species not found in our own county. We were not disappointed. Our first stop was at a small, sparsely vegetated spoil heap where *Minuartia verna* (Spring Sandwort) was growing with abundant *Silene uniflora* (Sea Campion), normally, as its English name suggests, a coastal plant. As some of you will know from the Peak District trip last year, the *Minuartia* is also associated with spoil from lead



Moonwort

mining in Derbyshire. The tiny fronds of the fern *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) were soon spotted, admired and photographed. The annual Little Mouse-ear (*Cerastium semidecandrum*) was present, as were a number of plants we normally associate with our Wiltshire chalk downland, but the abundant *Rumex acetosella* (Sheep's Sorrel) indicated an acid habitat. We might have puzzled over the *Carex muricata* (Prickly Sedge), but Helena was able to tell us what it was. Moving on, we passed the buddle pits, formerly used





An old wall with ferns

for washing out lead, but now covered in *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor – grass) heath with *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather) and *Potentilla erecta* (Tormentil). Next, we came to a large pond with emergent aquatics including *Carex rostrata* (Bottle Sedge), *Equisetum fluviatile* (Water Horsetail) and *Typha angustifolia* (Lesser Bulrush), the latter scarce in Somerset and rare in Wiltshire. Aquatics included *Potamogeton polygonifolius* (Bog Pondweed) and the less welcome introduction *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (Parrot’s-feather), a plant that can be very invasive. The 1997 ‘Atlas Flora of Somerset’ (Green, Green and Crouch) describes it as a very rare casual, rarely persisting for more than a couple of seasons because affected by severe winters, but climate change might now be allowing it to survive. Adjacent wet heathland was again dominated by *Molinia* with *Carex binervis* (Green-ribbed Sedge), *Juncus squarrosus* (Heath Rush), *Eriophorum angustifolium* (Common Cottongrass), *E. vaginatum* (Hare’s-tail Cottongrass) and *Trichophorum germanicum* (Deergrass). The latter used to be classed as a sub-species of *T. cespitosum*, but now has species status. Retracing our steps and walking round the pond in the opposite direction, we found *Dryopteris carthusiana* (Narrow Buckler Fern) and *Carex pilulifera* (Pill Sedge), growing amongst the *Molinia* locally. A slight detour from our path led us to a patch of

*Pedicularis sylvatica* (Lousewort), apparently only discovered there last year on a burn site. Next, we were taken to a linear ‘tump’ of black spoil where one of the day’s highlights, *Noccaea caerulescens* (Alpine Penny-cress) was abundant over a very small area. This is a rare plant associated with contamination with lead and zinc and found mainly in the Pennines. There was an area of *Salix carr* with *Sphagnum* mosses and leaves of *Viola palustris* (Marsh Violet) on one side of the linear feature. Passing a calcareous bank with *Arabis hirsuta* (Hairy Rock-cress), we came to an area of mire and Chinese whispers meant that when we were told to look out for *Narthecium* (Bog Asphodel) some thought it was *Thesium* (Bastard Toadflax) we were looking for! The former is confined in Wiltshire to our little bit of the New Forest, while the latter is widespread, but always nice to find on our best quality chalk downlands.

Our lunch spot, amongst the remains of old buildings, furnaces and flues associated with the lead workings, yielded a good variety of ferns with *Cystopteris fragilis* (Brittle Bladder-



Waldegrave Pool

fern), *Asplenium ceterach* (Rustyback), *A. ruta-muraria* (Wall-rue), *A. adiantum-nigrum* (Black Spleenwort), *A. trichomanes* (Maidenhair Spleenwort), *A. scolopendrium* (Hart’s-tongue), *Dryopteris filix-mas* (Male) and *Polypodium* (Polypody). Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Orange Tip Butterflies provided a diversion from the plants. Nearby, sparsely vegetated slag heaps had *Sedum acre* (Biting Stonecrop), *Deschampsia flexuosa* (Wavy Hair-grass) and *Aira praecox* (Early Hair-grass). From the top, we were able to look down on a very impressive area dominated by huge tussocks of *Carex paniculata* (Greater Tussock-sedge) that Helena had christened ‘The Valley of the Gonks’.

Leaving Priddy Mineries, we crossed the road into Stock Hill Wood, also the site of former lead mining, but in this case planted with conifers. Here, we added *Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken) and *Athyrium filix-femina* (Lady), *Dryopteris dilatata* (Broad Buckler) and *D. affinis* (Golden-scaled Male) to our fern count for the day. Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), a rare plant in VC 7 and confined to the New Forest in VC 8, was noted and there was a lengthy discussion of a St. John’s-wort that turned out to be *H. x desetangsii*, a hybrid between *H. perforatum* and *H. maculatum*, described by Stace as ‘easily overlooked’ and obviously something we need to keep our eyes open for! After completing a small circuit and spotting various plants typical of acid woodland such as *Oxalis acetosella* (Wood Sorrel), we returned to the car park.

Priddy Mineries is a wonderfully diverse site and our visit demonstrated why it is Helena’s favourite. We were all very grateful to her for sharing her enthusiasm for the site with us and showing us so many interesting plants and habitats.

Anne Appleyard

Photos - Tom Cairns





## West Sussex Residential Visit

Nineteen of us gathered for three summery days in West Sussex. Ali Green found us accommodation at Dunford House near Midhurst and Pat Woodruffe organised our bookings and generally shepherded us. The Centre was comfortable, spacious and had extensive grounds that were good for early morning exploration. It had been home to Richard Cobden, who campaigned against the Corn Laws and so helped to relieve the Irish potato famine.

Dave Green had sought advice from local botanists and the county Wildlife Trust and had spent two days in the area to explore for us. He planned and led our outings, giving us seashore, heath and wetland, scarce or absent in Wiltshire, and ending with a spooky yew wood and a downland fix.

**15 June 2015**

### *Ebernoe Common*

This was the first outing of our trip to West Sussex. We met at the car park of a delightful little church with decorative brickwork. Its walled churchyard was un-mown and a picture: full of wild flowers, notably Ox-eye Daisy and Common Spotted-orchid.

We very soon found our next treat of the day, Sweet Briar *Rosa rubiginosa*, followed by the brown flower-spike



Bird's-nest Orchid



Ebernoe church

of Bird's-nest Orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*. Our walk around the common gave us a succession of "Heath" species that are less common in Wiltshire: Heath Milkwort *Polygala serpyllifolia*, Heath Speedwell *Veronica officinalis*, Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, Heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens* and Heath Wood-rush *Luzula multiflora*. We also saw two other *Luzulas*: Hairy Wood-rush *L. pilosa* with its spreading inflorescence and Southern Wood-rush *L. forsteri* with its sticky-up inflorescence. Two fine-leaved acid-loving Bent-grasses were also there: Brown Bent *Agrostis vineale* and Velvet Bent *Agrostis canina*, but not yet Bristle Bent *Agrostis curtisii*.

There was a variety of *Carex* sedges; we found nine different species.

Returning to the churchyard, we paid attention to an unfamiliar tall daisy with pink ray petals. This turned out to be *Erigeron philadelphicus*, strangely known as Robin's-plantain. As the specific name suggests, it is an invader from North America.

And so towards Midhurst, to find our lodgings at Dunford House.

Richard Aisbitt



Robin's-plantain



Tuesday 16th June 2015

## Pagham Harbour

Leader – Dave Green

This was the first full day of our trip to Sussex having spent a very pleasant afternoon at Ebernoe Common the previous day.

We all arrived at the rendezvous point – a compacted gravel car park, described by Dave as a transient habitat, which was of great interest and delayed our departure to the shingle spit for some time. Here there were a range of very interesting small plants including Knotted Clover *Trifolium striatum*, Suffocated Clover *Trifolium suffocatum*, Haresfoot Clover *Trifolium arvense*, Sand Spurrey, *Spergularia rubra*, and just poking through a mesh fence separating the car park from a wild area beyond was a Tree Lupin *Lupinus arboreus*.



Hare's-foot Clover

We walked down to the shingle spit via bungalows and first reached the lagoon, here we started to see some of the characteristic plants of the shingle, Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare*, Yellow-horned Poppy *Glaucium flavum* and Slender Thistle *Carduus tenuiflorus*. We also found a range of habitat specific grasses including Spreading Meadow Grass



Dave taking stock



Yellow-horned Poppy

*Poa humilis*, Rat's-tail fescue and Squirrel-tail fescue *Vulpia myuros* and *Vulpia bromoides*, Curved Hard Grass *Parapholis incurva*.

Just before lunch we found the highlight of the day which was the very rare Childing Pink *Petrorhagia nanteuilii*. What a find we all thought as our book was saying this was the one of only 2 sites for this species in the UK. After lunch on what was a pleasantly warm sunny day we progressed further along the spit descending in to an area with scrub on one side where some of us saw a Cuckoo. It was in this area that we saw Spring Beauty *Claytonia perfoliata*, Annual Sea Blite *Suaeda maritima*, Heath Groundsel *Senecio*



Childing Pink

*sylvaticus*, Greater Sea Spurrey *Spergularia media* and Ploughman's Spikenard *Inula conyzae*.

We reached the end of the spit and turned back inland and soon found much more Childing Pink in various areas, it seems to be thriving on this site.

Just before reaching the car park we stopped off at a cafe and enjoyed



Adder's-tongue

refreshments. As it was now mid afternoon Dave decided to postpone the visit to Iping Common to another day, which was just as well as this gave some of the group time to explore the 'wasteland' beyond the car park fence. Here we found an amazing array of interesting plants including a good number of Childing Pink *Petrorhagia nanteuilii*, Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* Saltmarsh Rush *Juncus gerardii*, Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, Sea Sandwort *Honckenya peploides*, and Wild Leek *Allium ampeloprasum*. This was a very pleasant way to round off an enjoyable day.

Tom and Jean Smith



## Amberley Wildbrooks



A wild brook?

Looking at the citation and plant list for this site it indicated we were in for a treat. The area seemed superficially like a scene from the Somerset Levels and I'm sure would take several days to cover properly.

The first puzzle came at the entrance to the reserve with around six elms found either side of the track. They appeared to be Small-leaved Elms but their jizz just didn't quite add up so we had to leave them. (There are in fact many horticultural hybrids using *Ulmus minor* as a parent to find Dutch Elm Disease resistant cultivars and this together with that there were similar numbers each side I believe they are likely to be of this origin).

To the first ditch and Water Horsetail



*Equisetum fluviatile* was our start for water plants along with False-fox Sedge *Carex otrubae* and Bladder Sedge *Carex vesicaria*. At the head of one of the water control points Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, Greater Duckweed *Spirodela polyrhiza*, and Frogbit *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* were found. A weed drag for some pondweeds brought up

more than one species and samples had to be taken for microscope examination of one or two with Small Pondweed *Potamogeton berchtoldii* being confirmed. On the spot we had Shining Pondweed *P. lucens* which lays just submerged of the surface and the leaves quite translucent when held up to the light.

Moving on towards the tidal river we stopped to glance at a yellow cress. Richard with wellies on braved the steep ditch edge to grab a sample that confirmed our thoughts of Great Yellow-cress *Rorippa amphibia* which was just as well he did for the Amberley Plant Records had many Yellow-cresses on its list but not this one!

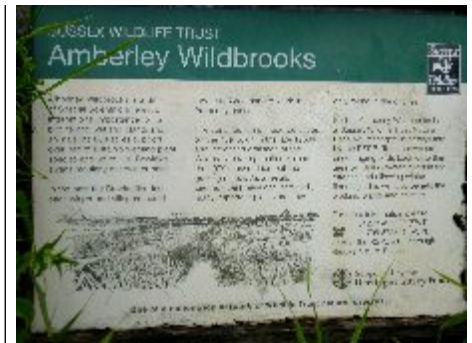


Frogbit

At the river we were very pleased to find so quickly a hybrid plant Dave had told us about. The parents are *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* and *S. triqueter* giving *Schoenoplectus x kuekenthalianus*. Strangely whilst *S. tabernaemontani* and *S. kuek.* were both present, one of the parents *S. triqueter* has disappeared and is now almost extinct in this Country surviving only in South Devon.

Back from the river edge as we climbed up a bank a good spot by Paul gave us a single Narrow-leaved Water-Dropwort *Oenanthe silaifolia* a species new to many of us present. Over the top to drag some more pondweed gave us both Perfoliate and Broad-leaved Pondweed, *P. perfoliatus* and *P. natans* respectively.

Further water dipping and searching gave us Narrow-leaved Water-



plantain *Alisma lanceolatum*, Marsh Yellow-cress *Rorippa palustris*, plus a few standards like Water Dock *Rumex hydrolapathum* and Lesser Water-parsnip *Berula erecta*. A pair of binoculars came in handy to confirm Marsh Stitchwort *Stellaria palustris* on the far side of a ditch just too distant to reach!

We thought we had reached the 'Jurassic Park' when we came across a large patch of Greater Tussock-sedges, *Carex paniculata*. Quite the tallest the author had seen with their tall 1.8m large stumps and top leaf canopy hinting at Tree Ferns.

Another good spot giving the author his second new Water-Dropwort of the day was Fine-leaved Water-dropwort *Oenanthe aquatica*. The day was rapidly turning out to be a ticking-off session but then I am a confessed albeit retired trainspotter. The weather quite tropical now; we had our break by some Orange Balsam *Impatiens capensis* (tick!) before returning to our cars well pleased with the days takings.

**Martin Buckland**



Cyperus Sedge



Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Stedham Common SSSI and Local Nature Reserve

Our second visit of the day contrasted markedly with our first and indeed with any of the other sites we visited during our stay in West Sussex. Stedham Common is owned and managed by the Sussex Wildlife Trust and is an area of lowland heath which previously was planted with blocks of pines for commercial timber production. Most of these trees have been removed and heathland restoration is well under way with grazing cattle helping to recreate a patchy open habitat. Although the site was quite dry when we visited, Brenda Child, who lives locally, assured me that in winter the low-lying areas are very wet indeed. This was borne out by the number of sedges that we found – I noted seven including several (*Carex nigra*, *C. binervis* and *C. echinata*) typical of wet acid ground. There was also a substantial amount of cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, which also inhabits the wetter parts, whilst we found Ling *Calluna vulgaris* and Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* mainly in the drier, raised areas. Several plants of Ling were parasitized by Dodder *Cuscuta epithymum*. There were good intentions to examine a small specimen of the plant for its haustoria



Tangled strands of Dodder



during the evening but, after a hearty meal, I'm not sure that this ever came about!

Some of the higher areas produced some interesting plants which are uncommon in Wiltshire. Blinks *Montia fontana* was found growing in a damp rut. This tiny purslane is known from only a few sites in Wiltshire, except in the New Forest fringes where it is more widespread. Nearby, but in drier conditions we saw Bird's-foot Clover or fenugreek *Trifolium ornithopodioides* and Slender Trefoil *Trifolium micranthum*. Both plants hug the ground and produce small, inconspicuous flowers which are easily overlooked.

Iping Common is the only recorded site in West Sussex for Bristle Bent *Agrostis curtisii* although this record has not been verified recently. Whilst on Stedham Common Dave pointed out a similarly fine-leaved grass which we later identified as Fine-leaved Sheep's Fescue *Festuca filiformis*. In flower they are readily distinguished because the *Agrostis* has a conspicuous awn whilst the Fescue does not. Could this have been a case of mistaken identity when only vegetative material was available? We shall never know.

Yet another very interesting site to end a splendid day of botanising.

Pat Woodruffe

Blinks - Pat (from Dartmoor)



Bird's-foot Clover or Fenugreek





Kingley Vale wood

## A Midsummer-Day's Dream: Kingley Vale NNR

On the cusp of midsummer and on a day which marked the last of a notable field trip, members of "Wilts Bots" experienced their own Shakespearean dream world when they visited Kingley Vale NNR.

An azure blue sky overhead and bright green crops rippling in the breeze on either side, we made our way along a deceptively straight and unassuming access path to this nationally-important nature reserve.



Plaque to Sir Arthur Tansley

Unabashed, a lone Yellowhammer serenaded us as we walked between the twin fields of an intensively-cultivated farming world. A lone Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) reminded us of other times and other habitats: ancient woodlands.



Honeysuckle on top of a yew tree

And there, at the sudden boundary with the nature reserve, was that other world. Everything changed around us. We entered a shaded wildwood whose very presence was felt by us all. Voices became hushed. Footsteps quietened amongst the dense leaf litter. Eyes adjusted to this supernatural dimpsey, peering into the glades on either side, in which nymphs and dryads might be expected at any moment. We had entered a world which had existed since - who knew when?

We had spent most of the trip (as botanists do!) looking down at our feet, hoping to identify plants in the immediate vicinity. We had to search diligently to find the tiny, delicate

flowers of Childing Pink (*Petrorhagia nanteuilii*) whose rarity is remarked in every botanic guide. We had to deploy wellies and a grappling hook to reel in and marvel at the even smaller flower of Canadian Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), which floats minutely from its submerged parent plant. We had to kneel and grovel, lens in hand, amongst the uncomfortably roughened cinders of Pagham's temporary car park to find a wondrous range of Trifoliums: *T. striatum*, *T. suffocatum* and *T. subterraneum*.



By contrast, at Kingley Vale, we were dwarfed by the large, the old and the ancient. Above all, we experienced the majesty of the natural world. We were amongst a grove of Yew trees (*Taxus baccata*) whose stature and magnificence defied belief. Cameras clicked and digital images were captured, but the image that will long remain is that of massive tree trunks, their heartwood hollowed out with the vagaries of unimaginable time. No scientific ring-counting here - the





28th June 2015

## Clattinger Farm: Identification of Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

Clattinger Farm was selected as it is one of the most richest sites in Wiltshire for grasses and its allies. We met at Lower Moor Farm and walked down the road toward Clattinger Farm and then turned down the public footpath exiting into the Ditch Field.

It didn't take long for us to get started and new species were seemingly found every few yards. Clattinger has clay soils overlying a gravel substrate and this combination threw up species typical of chalk through the pH spectrum even to mildly acidic.

Sharon has a great style of teaching and was very patient with any questions we had for her and made sure that any specimens pointing out auricles or awns were passed around for all to see. I'm not sure it wasn't a health clinic for we examined Hairy Ears, Hairy Knees, Eyelashes and even inspected bed attire with Pink Stripy Pyjamas! This also gave us all a chance to pass on our own *aide memoirs* when remembering keys to certain plants.

We truly experienced a broad spectrum of species, too many to write about here. I noted 45 different plants and yet we only encountered one more field, Front Field, and dipped our toe into another before time ran out for the day.

Suffice to say that the days experience was fantastic and I know that everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed it. It truly has made a difference to my own recording and I notice that I am already adding more grassy species to my notes.

Huge thanks to Sharon for giving up her own time to teach us.

*Martin Buckland*



*The view from the hill*

rings have long disappeared, leaving a gnarled and wizened carapace of psychedelically-patterned outer wood.

We clambered, awestruck, amongst the branches. They were impressive sculptures, describing the random contortions of centuries-old living organisms. Some branches had become noticeably etiolated: growing out from the main trunk, they had become buried in the soil. Yet they emerged close by, twice the girth and invigorated by the development of new roots: nature's arboricultural answer to age! The effects were stunning. For once, this was not an occasion to take pride in looking at the botanically minute, the organic esoteric, but to be awed by natural growth at the opposite end of the spectrum: the huge and the gigantic.

Curiosity led us on, out of the enclosed wildwood on to a great bowl of ancient and open chalk grassland. We renewed our search for small-scale botany. Academic questions kicked in again. One of the group asked why, in the classic chalk habitat which had emerged before us, we hadn't seen Kidney Vetch. We met that target, by scaling the challenging heights of the chalk ridge and finding our target plant. We found other chalk specialists: Rock Rose, Wild Thyme and Marjoram. Above all, we sat at the uppermost rim of this great dry chalk valley, butterflies flitting

about us, and drank in stunning views, across the plains below to Chichester Cathedral, the Isle of Wight and the flatlands of the new nature reserve at Medmerry.

This had been an exceptional day: one which marked the end of an excellent field trip. Kingley Vale, a special place, was well chosen to mark that end. "Wilts Bots", a group which appreciates nature and its varied forms, walked into this magic zone. Not only did we see the science, the botanic nature that we'd hoped for, but we'd had that surreal experience, that spirit of place made manifest, in which nature and botany combine to help us understand something beyond our human selves.

*Brenda Child*



12<sup>th</sup> July 2015

## Boyds Farm and quarry, near Corsham

I counted 15 people who attended this outing on what was my last one with the Wiltshire Botanical Society (sniff sniff) as I move to botanical pastures new. Martin Buckland was our intrepid leader and although the main focus was seeing the Round-leaved Wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*) it certainly did not get centre stage.

Traversing through arable fields the usual candidates were spotted including Field Pansy (*Viola arvensis*), Many-seeded Goosefoot (*Chenopodium polyspermum*), Redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), Fool's Parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*) and Common Fumitory (*Fumaria*



Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea

*officinalis*). Some of us discussed the differences between the Goosefoots and Oraches and others looked at the differences between the Swine-cresses. We found the knobbly balled *Lepidium coronopus* rather than the not so knobbly *Lepidium didymium*.

When we arrived at the wood which surrounded a quarry the habitat improved and soon we were all feasting on wild strawberries (*Fragaria vesca*) and looking out for the Rusty willow (*Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*). I also found a dead shrew and probably took it home but don't know where it is now. I should have been looking out for the Broad-leaved helleborines (*Epipactis helleborine*) that occur on the site but not seen today unfortunately. In amongst the willows we came across some lovely

limestone grassland where Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Self heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*) and Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) and Yellow oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) were to be found in abundance. The stonecrop growing on the side of the path was noted to be of the white persuasion (*Sedum album*). Also to be noted was *Sagina filicaulis* which when I looked it up online has a YouTube video (with music) of how to separate it from apetala ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mc9ZGlj\\_G4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mc9ZGlj_G4)) Sharon decided to take the *Hieracium* challenge, good luck with that Sharon – there are over 400 species after all!

Walking along we also noted Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Broad-leaved everlasting pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) were in evidence. On entering a secure bit of the quarry site warning signs blasted out and a voice boomed that we were to leave immediately – normally botanising is not that dangerous! We did however notice Common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*), Common Broomrape (*Orobanche minor*), Wall lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*), Shining Cranesbill (*Geranium lucidum*), a *Potentilla reptans* hybrid and a small patch of fern grass (*Catapodium rigidum*).

Other areas of the site were composed of very short turf and gravelly



Is this Round-leaved Wintergreen?



Maybe, but just the leaves - Tim



Hunky Pyramidal Orchids - Tim

protrusions and had a profusion of nice species, nothing particularly rare but nice nevertheless. Hairy brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Ploughman's Spikenard (*Inula conyzae*), Hairy St-John's Wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) and yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*) all put in an appearance. Whilst enjoying a pleasant lunch enclosed by Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) we also noticed several Autumn Gentians (*Gentianella amarella*).

After lunch Martin took us to the area where the wintergreen had been found. This year however there were none in flower though we did convince ourselves that we could spot a few leaves. Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) was also found in this area. On the way back we talked about the differences between Marsh and Welled thistle. Marsh (*Cirsium palustre*) has the feathery seeds whilst Welled (*Carduus crispus*) the down is unbranched. *Poa angustifolia* was also spotted; let's not forget the grasses.

The trip was cut short by a torrential and unexpected downpour which made me realise that I had to invest in a new waterproof coat. Most trips have been blessed with fine weather, all with great company and occasionally I have learnt something. I must thank all members of the group for helping me improve my skills and providing so many moments of botanical ecstasy!

Tim Kaye

PS: The Spotted Hawkweed turned out to be *Hieracium spilophaeum*. This plant being within the *H. maculatum* aggregate which in turn lies within the section *H. vulgata*. (Thanks to Sharon)



Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>

## New Forest – Fritham

This venture across the county boundary into Hampshire, and just south of VC8 too, brought forth Wiltshire Bot Soc members from far afield including Dorset and Gloucestershire. We were fortunate to have a pleasant, dry day sandwiched between two wet ones.

First we explored the lawns opposite the Royal Oak PH, spotting Chamomile *Chamaemelum nobile*, Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus* and Hairy Buttercup *Ranunculus sardous*. We then walked along the track towards Fritham Plain investigating a hybrid rose of doubtful parentage but thought to include *R. micrantha*, a number of Crab Apple trees *Malus sylvestris* all laden with fruit and Alder Buckthorn *Frangula alnus*. Several grasses typical of acid ground were pointed out – Mat Grass *Nardus stricta*, Heath Grass *Danthonia decumbens* and Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*.

Turning right off the main track we headed northwards and downhill into boggy ground. Our first finds were two Sundews *Drosera rotundifolia* and *D. intermedia*. Close by were a few late flowers and many seed-heads of Bog Asphodel *Nartheicum ossifragum*. I recall that many years ago I was told that the plant was so named because it was believed to be responsible for a brittle bone condition in horses that ate it. Much later it was realised that the cause was not the plant but the acidic, nutrient-poor status of the habitat in which it grew. A rush growing here caused much discussion as it appeared to have characteristics of both Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus* and Sharp-flowered Rush *J. acutiflorus*. The case was adjourned but a warning given that the hybrid between these two is often more common than either of the parents! It was whilst we enjoyed the delights of plants such as Bog Pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, Lesser Skullcap *Scutellaria minor* and Marsh St John's-wort *Hypericum elodes* that a conversation started about the very rare status of some of the New Forest specialities. It terminated with the

comment 'is it the plants that are very rare or the people who look for them'.

Our next stop was at Green Pond which seemed to be badly poached by animals until sharp eyes spotted both Allseed *Radiola linoides* and Chaffweed



Looking for Allseed -  
inset (Pat)

*Anagallis minima* growing in the bare soil and short grass around the edge.

Both are tiny and were past their best but could be distinguished by the stiff branched nature of the allseed and the typical pimpernel-like leaves of the Chaffweed. We headed across Fritham Plain to our lunch spot beneath a pine tree but on the way there managed to find a few nice plants. The first of these was quite common in the area but conspicuous by the bright green leaves even when not in flower. This was Heath Rush *Juncus squarrosus* which we were assured had a 'twangy head' (if you hit it to one side, it twanged back). Our second find was definitely not as common; it was the nationally scarce Eyebright *Euphrasia anglica*, a short, densely hairy plant found in short turf on heaths in southern Britain. Close by we saw Field Gentian *Gentianella campestris* which is very rare in southern Britain but much more common in Scotland. Although rather similar to Autumn Gentian *Gentianella amarella*, it has paler, bluer flowers with four petals and the two outer sepals are large and broad, overlapping the two inner ones.

After lunch we headed downhill into boggy country where some of us were perilously close to losing wellies and others got wet and muddy feet. Our first gem was Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* a remarkable little fern growing on the edge of a pond and looking more like a grass until you spot the characteristic curling of the vegetative fronds. The fertile fronds form a globose head and we were able to see a few of these too. Looking

rather similar but with a more prostrate habit was Floating Club-rush *Eleogiton fluitans* – it has also spent time in the genera *Isolepis* and *Scirpus*. Moving on across the boggy ground we saw Marsh Clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*, Fen Bedstraw *Galium uliginosum* and Marsh Speedwell *Veronica scutellata*. Finally we arrived at a stream, Dockens Water, where we found Tubular Water Dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa* on the bank. Also in the stream was a Bur-reed with floating leaves. Our attempts to key this out indicated *Sparganium angustifolium*, a plant recorded only from Hatchet Pond in the New Forest



*Sparganium angustifolium* (to be confirmed) - Pat

and indeed absent from much of southern England. Our find has been passed on to the south Hants VC recorder for his consideration.

The New Forest always provides us with a great deal of interest and plants which are very rare in most of Wiltshire. The variety of habitats to which Martin led us was impressive and we were very grateful both to him and to Dave Green for laying on such a treat.

Pat Woodruffe



Field Gentian - note the large outer sepals (Neville Diserens)





Tank tracks - new habitat to colonise

1<sup>st</sup> August 2015

## Cross-Country Driving Area, Salisbury Plain

If like me you were really keen to see the target species of Broad-leaved Cudweed *Filago pyramidata* then the meeting was nearly over before we started. The gathering point was just off the A338 at the tank crossing DD. I can't remember who mentioned it but it turned out that some of the targets had been found previously at the side of the road where we stood so immediately a score of eyes scoured the ground and there standing about 2cm tall was the first of several small and not so small plants of this amazingly tough species growing in compacted 'soil'.

From here the group of 22 WBS and Bulford Conservation members progressed further in-land to park



Wild Mignonette

overlooking the Army's Cross Country Driving Range. The usual suspects of Viper's Bugloss, Tall Melilot and Wild Parsnip were seen all around but our leader John Moon took us just a short distance to a slightly raised area of ground and there we were able to admire in greater numbers and stature our Broad-leaved Cudweed, and in flower. We walked towards a track leading uphill between trees. Knotted Pearlwort *Sagina nodosa* was found and a delightful clump of Lesser Centaury *Centaureum pulchellum* that we were able to compare with Common Centaury *C. erythraea* nearby. Amongst the local vegetation much Carline Thistle *Carlina vulgaris* was in full flower and not the usual part-dead or fully dried heads we often see.

At the top of the hill now it was notably different with barely a Parsnip or Bugloss in site. The clay cap over the chalk here gives way to slightly acid conditions and so we saw Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Heath Speedwell *Veronica officinalis* and Wood Sage *Teucrium scorodonia* growing. Closer now to the bottom of the hill Dodder *Cuscuta epithimum* was seen but we were not sure as to its host, possibly Thyme or Ladies Bedstraw. Squinancy-wort *Asperula cynanchica* did a Dodder impression with carpets of it covering the other vegetation around it. Back towards

the cars now for lunch but not before we saw some very nice Bastard-toadflax *Thesium humifusum*.

Picnic spots are renowned for offering up good plants and it was not until we were finishing lunch when it was realised we had plonked ourselves down amongst a patch of Autumn Gentian *Gentianella amarella*, I easily counted 30, hope they're tough!

After sustenance of the stomach kind we filled up on a few more plants by heading towards some ponds near to the CCDA itself. On the way through some longer vegetation Sharon spotted Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass *Poa angustifolia* a much under recorded species, often mistaken for Red Fescue. At the first of our water patches we were able to compare Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus* and Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiformis* and two Sweet Grasses, Plicate and Floating, *Glyceria notata* and *G. fluitans*.

More Broad-leaved Cudweed this time seen along with desiccated Thyme-leaved Sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia* and Fine-leaved Sandwort *Minuartia hybrida* plants but both with enough leaf material for comparison.

The group continued on towards a large pond but the author had to leave at this point. I know I had an enjoyable time and I'm sure everyone else would like to pass on their thanks to John Moon for suggesting and leading this visit.

*Martin Buckland*



Common and Lesser Centaury - the distinction needs care





The Kennet at Mildenhall

Sunday 09 August 2015

## BSBI Atlas Recording Day. Savernake Forest, Marlborough and the Kennet Valley

Leader: Sharon Pilkington

Eleven of us met at the Postern Hill car park in Savernake Forest, and after a briefing from Sharon, split into three groups and went to different locations. Each group aimed to cover a kilometre square, making as full a list of species as possible and noting details for anything special. Richard provided recording sheets marked with the species which had been noted before 2010. These sheets also indicated more recent records, but there were few or none of these.

East Marlborough and the Kennet Valley - SU2069. Richard, Penny and Rosemary started in the outlying residential and industrial bits of Marlborough, picking up hedge bank and ruderal (weedy) species, then skirting farm fields where a few arable weeds were hanging on. The south side of River Kennet and its damp meadows were tempting, near, but rarely accessible, either being private or well fenced. They found

Solomon's Seal *Polygonatum multiflorum* in the next square before crossing the river at Mildenhall. The Kennet was accessible in places on its north bank, yielding some wetland plants: Greater Pond-sedge *Carex riparia*, Common Club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, Branched Burr-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Hybrid Water-speedwell *Veronica x lackschewitzii*, and others. The old railway line provided some more plants and a way back across the river.

*Richard Aisbitt*

Martin, Jane, Paul and I opted to take on SU2068 and were able to walk from the Postern Hill car park into our square. We set off through the woodland and soon found some *Galeopsis bifida* (Bifid Hemp-nettle) later confirmed by Sharon from photographs. It apparently occurs quite frequently in the Marlborough area. We made our way down to the A4 through a field where we picked up some species of calcareous grassland and crossed into Chopping Knife Lane, aiming for an area of access land that promised to provide a chalk grassland flora. A patch of disturbed ground en route yielded *Senecio viscosus* (Sticky Groundsel). The access land was rather under-grazed and not as rich as we hoped, but we still added a number of species to our list. Returning along the lane, our attention was caught by a *Sonchus*

*arvensis* (Perennial Sowthistle) that lacked its usual glandular hairs, but there was nothing else it could have been and Stace allows for some plants to be glabrous. We attempted to find another route back through the woodland to our meeting point, not always successfully, as we also wanted to avoid walking along the A4. We were also defeated by dense brambles in our attempt to find a pond in the woodland marked on the map. Despite these minor tribulations, we succeeded in making a reasonable, if not exceptional number of records.

*Anne Appleyard*

Sharon, Jenny Bennett, Lesley Wallington and her friend Baz headed south to tackle SU2264, a square taking in the Column and the southern edge of Savernake Forest. In acid grassland near the Column they found many species of acid ground including *Calluna vulgaris* (Ling), *Galium saxatile* (Heath Bedstraw) and *Carex pilulifera* (Pill Sedge). Woodland nearby later also produced *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor-grass), a common grass in much of the country but one that is only occasional with us. A pond nearby added many species to the list including *Lemna gibba* (Fat Duckweed) and *Spirodela polyrhiza* (Greater Duckweed). Moving into the forest nearby, they also found much of interest, including the Savernake speciality, *Epipactis purpurata* (Violet Helleborine), sadly not quite into flower and *Epilobium roseum* (Pale Willowherb). Sharon and Jenny also searched hard for the Wiltshire rarity *Ulex minor* (Dwarf Gorse) long known from Cheval Bottom and last recorded there in 2006. They could not find it and thought the valley had become too overgrown with scrub and *Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken).

*Sharon Pilkington*



22 August 2015

## Plant Recording around Upavon

We aimed to cover eight kilometre squares around the Salisbury Avon valley between Upavon and the Manningsfords. After splitting into three groups, we managed six of these on a challengingly hot day.

### Upavon



Native Black Poplar

Richard, Jane, Paul and Janine started off round Upavon village streets. They were invited into an abandoned area in a pub car park, which had a collection of bare ground species, including Lesser Swine-cress *Lepidium didymium*. Priory Meadow, an open-access wet grassland beside the Avon, had Marsh Ragwort *Senecio aquaticus* dotted around and provided a shady picnic spot. Heading east brought us to a cool woodland track leading to downland with strip lynchets at the top of the hill with a respectable selection of downland plants. On the way back, Richard got left behind and decided to explore the banks of the Avon, adding



Priory Meadow

a few wetland plants, including the dreaded Indian Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* and a huge pollarded Native Black Poplar *Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia* in a garden on the opposite bank. It had branches reaching over the Avon showing the diagnostic spiral petiole galls. Meanwhile the others enjoyed ice creams back in the village.

Richard Aisbitt

### Manningsford Bohune

As with recording anywhere, what you will find can be a gamble but one lesson to remember is that if there is a site you want to walk around try and find the owner and ask. Anne, Tom and myself had a Trout lake in our square that tempted us in to see what we could find. Asking for

permission at the gatehouse gave us near full access to their lakes and streams without any problems. I think the duty person was only too happy we asked.

Another lesson I learnt is that if the area you ask people to botanise over cannot be pre-viewed in person then check it out on Google maps. This trio found themselves with a field track that had been ploughed out and "Oh that's okay we'll walk down this field boundary instead", he says looking at the map. Ha ha, only to find that it had been....ploughed out.

The hedge boundary we did walk down failed to have a gateway that we wished was there to get to a roadside verge we wanted to walk along. What to do? Follow Anne and Tom and crawl through it!

Highlights of the day were...the above ...and the Rye Brome *Bromus secalinus* we found growing at the edge of a

crop of field beans. A scarce and declining grass species this was notable and a 8 figure grid reference taken.

What will you find? Go on, have some fun!

Martin Buckland

### Manningsford Bruce and Abbots

Sharon, Penny and Irene decided to tackle two monads in and around Manningsford Bruce and Manningsford Abbots, a choice made primarily on account of their wooded nature, attractive on a hot day. They looked at wet and dry woodland, marshy grassland, the River Avon and two churchyards on a circular route along footpaths. Of note was *Poa angustifolia* (Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass), on a wall, *Hedera hibernica* (Atlantic Ivy) in woodland (presumably introduced), *Crassula helmsii* (New Zealand Pigmyweed) in the Avon and *Galium uliginosum* (Fen Bedstraw) in marshy grassland. Much of the grassland in the area was hopelessly improved and floristically dull and hopes for some 'urban grots' near houses were dashed by the general tidiness of the villages; however fun was had differentiating pond-sedges growing together near the river.

Sharon Pilkington



Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

## Winterbourne Downs RSPB Reserve

A dozen members assembled at the reserve car park on a fine September day and were joined by Patrick Cashman, the Wiltshire Reserves Manager, based on the site. After a brief introduction from Patrick outlining the work done to manage the farm for Stone Curlews and other wildlife, we headed into Football Field, a chalk grassland reversion from arable. This was sown by hand by volunteers, including myself, in 2006 and I and a cast of various other WBS members including Pat Woodruffe, have been helping to monitor its progress every year since. It has developed extremely well and we debated whether or not anyone who did not know its history would suspect that it had been an arable field only nine years ago. It is now managed by grazing, but not grazed between April and September and so is very floriferous during the spring and summer. Even in September, there were a number of plants such as *Scabiosa columbaria* (Small Scabious) still in flower and we discovered at least 100 plants of *Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian) just coming into full bloom. Seed of this species had been collected by volunteers from local sites such as Cockey Down and sown to help diversify the flora. Two years ago, a sinusoidal chalk bank was created across the field as part of work to provide habitat for butterfly species that use the plants of thin chalk soils, such as *Hippocrepis comosa* (Horseshoe Vetch), as food plants. The bank has been sown with seeds of *Thymus polytrichus* (Thyme), *Helianthemum nummularium* (Rock Rose) etc, many collected locally by volunteers. Both seed and plug plants of *Hippocrepis* have also been added. WBS members have monitored the development of the flora over the last two years and this year found quite a number of *Hippocrepis* plants, with seedlings coming up even in areas of

largely bare chalk. Strangely despite the lack of soil, the top part of the bank has very lush growth of species such as *Centaurea scabiosa* (Greater Knapweed), *Echium vulgare* (Viper's Bugloss) and *Helminthotheca echinoides* (Bristly Oxtongue) this year and this is swamping the low-growing plants for which the bank was created, so there are plans to trim off the tall vegetation and remove arisings.

Leaving Football Field, we took a path that forms part of the nature trail, through an area of woodland where plants of *Daphne laureola* (Spurge Laurel) were admired, and emerged into a field sown lightly with a bird seed crop to attract birds such as Turtle Doves. There was quite a mix of species, with arable weeds including *Chenopodium album* (Fat-hen) and *Lamium amplexicaule* (Henbit Dead-nettle) mixed with sown plants including *Amaranthus*, *Fagopyrum esculentum* (Buckwheat) and *Panicum* (Millet). If you look at Stace, you will understand why I have not gone beyond genus for the Amaranth! Many of the group lingered here brushing up on identification skills, but some of us went through to the next field, Churchill North, a five year old reversion, past a large *Juglans regia* (Walnut), growing by an old railway bridge. Churchill North has an older grass margin where I found a few *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid) in July, a new record for the field. Patrick told us that there is *Ornithogalum umbellatum* (Star-of-Bethlehem) along the edge in the spring, but this may be the introduced sub-species *umbellatum*, rather than the native ssp. *campestre*. The flora of the field is well-developed, with abundant *Rhinanthus minor* (Yellow Rattle), *Poterium sanguisorba* (Salad Burnet), *Pimpinella saxifraga* (Burnet Saxifrage), *Plantago media* (Hoary Plantain) and other common plants of chalk grassland.

Those of us who made it into Churchill North then retraced our steps and joined the rest of the group to walk down the disused railway line that forms part of the shorter nature trail route, heading back to the car

park and lunch. Quite a varied flora lined the way, including *Malva moschata* (Musk-mallow), *M. sylvestris* (Common Mallow), *Tanacetum vulgare* (Tansy) and *Ballota nigra* (Black Horehound), but the most interesting find was one that foxed us in the field and required access to our libraries at home to track it down. We decided that it was probably an *Artemisia*, but unlike those we knew and so it turned out. Pat and I independently identified it as *Artemisia dracunculus* (Tarragon) and Sharon Pilkington has subsequently confirmed this. It is a first record for VC 8 and some distance from the nearest habitation from which it could have escaped.

Patrick left us at lunchtime and for the afternoon we drove through Newton Tony to a field called Mainline next to the Portway Roman Road and separated from the Porton Ranges by the main railway line from Salisbury to Andover. Mainline contained stubble remaining after harvesting and we were hoping to find some interesting arable weeds. *Lithospermum arvense* (Field Gromwell) was found here last year, but we failed to re-find it on this occasion. We did, however, find very extensive populations of *Euphorbia exigua* (Dwarf Spurge). Our list also included *Chaenorhinum minus* (Small Toadflax), *Sherardia arvensis* (Field Madder), *Fumaria densiflora* (Dense-flowered Fumitory) and *Aethusa cynapium* (Fool's Parsley).

We had seen quite a variety of habitats and plants on our visit and there is still scope for future outings to other parts of the reserve. We will be continuing to help with monitoring, so if anyone is interested in joining us next year, do please let me know. Thanks very much to Patrick for accompanying us and being so informative about the reserve and its management. His contribution was much appreciated.

Anne Appleyard



# Cotswold Water Park

Twelve members met firstly at the Gateway Centre before moving onto Clayhill Picnic Site. From here we followed the footpath toward a gravel pit within the Kent End complex. What we found here was a strange landscape of abandoned quarry machinery, compressed gravelled ground, spread subsoil, small gravel heaps and inert builders waste along with the water filled gravel pit itself.

Where did we look first? Well everywhere. Such was the mix of plants that one just had to look anywhere; even the abandoned metal work provided. I called Irene over to show her three species growing in the sandy silt left on a gravel chute. Thyme-leaved Sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia*, Fern-grass *Catapodium rigidum* and Blue Fleabane *Erigeron acris*. On the ground the harsh conditions and lack of nutrients confused us as many species grew so small, for example I met an Ox-eye daisy about 5cms tall with just a single floret. However one plant that dominated the poor soils was Bristly Ox-tongue *Helminthotheca (Picris) echinoides*. Another plant found particularly in the poorer areas of soil was the delightful looking Annual Beard-grass *Polypogon monspeliensis*. Guest David then discovered another *Polypogon* quite close to the water's edge and this time it was Water Bent *Polypogon viridis*. Both these species are on the increase and we should all keep a look out for them.

A Water-crowfoot spp. grew in large numbers at the lake's muddy margins but very few plants had flowers to identify it by but was later determined all to be Common wc *Ranunculus aquatilis*. One of the best plants found was a CWP speciality. It is lush green in colour and forms wide 'turves' looking like a well cut lawn. Needle Spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis* was simply fascinating and enjoyed the very damp drawn down areas at the side of the water.

Garden species had a look-in with *Chrysanthemum superbum*, *Sisyrinchium striatum* and *Lysimachia punctata*. Upright Spurge *Euphorbia serrulata* put in a guest appearance as a probably introduced species. Deemed native but rare in the Forest of Dean it is classed as introduced elsewhere but a 'proper' plant fought back just before lunch with Grass Vetchling *Lathyrus nissolia*. It might not be blousy but the flower colour of crimson-red is beautiful - the Rose field guide doesn't do it justice.

And so we sat and ate our sandwiches. I estimate that we had moved just about 150m in an hour and a half!

A little faster now we progressed toward a site within the Cleveland complex normally out of bounds to the public but for which we had been given special permission to visit as long as we recorded what we saw. On the way we still picked up some nice oddities noting a single Golden Dock *Rumex maritimus* near the water's edge. Wow, my first sighting of this narrow leaved, golden-yellow Budgie millet (to me), I thought it quite attractive. On a pile of dumped builder's soil waste the conditions must have been just right for the tops



Golden Dock

were covered in Hoary Mustard *Hirschfeldia incana*. Just before we finished with this site we were pleased to see Goat's Rue *Galega officinalis* in flower and then Crown Vetch *Securigera varia*.

We had spent a lot of time here so we pushed on quickly to the Cleveland Complex which did not disappoint.

Similar suspects to Kent End were seen again including the ubiquitous Bristly Ox-tongue. Sharon spotted some Square-stalked Willowherb *Epilobium tetragonum*. I wonder how many of us miss this or mis-identify this plant? (Willowherb workshop needed?).

At the water's edge a 'Grey' Sedge, *Carex divulsa* puzzled Sharon as not being quite correct so a sample had to be taken. (Since our meeting this has been determined as Leer's Sedge *Carex divulsa ssp. leersii*). Not so puzzling however was a single plant of Cyperus Sedge *Carex pseudocyperus*.

On gravel heaps the dead stems of Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata* were quite statuesque against the sky-line and certainly caused many of us to stop and look. However further along we were treated to a scarce crucifer for a few Treacle Mustard *Erysimum cheiranthoides* plants were found.

Plenty more common species were recorded as we traversed passed areas of dried silty sand (from gravel washing) now forming their own habitats of reed and willow. Alas time was against us and we had to return.

This meeting was advertised to gift us annuals to arables and aquatics and it certainly did not disappoint and gifted us plenty of species and I'd like to thank all those present who offered their knowledge so freely to the many questions received. This was truly a fantastic day for the summer season to end upon.

*Martin Buckland*



Treacle Mustard



# Plant Records 2014

Compiled by John Presland

**Fig (*Ficus carica*) beside river at Bradford-on-Avon**



## Explanatory notes

The following is a selection from WBS records received in 2014. For each species, initials of recorders and names of towns, villages and sites are not repeated. Assume it's the same one until a new one appears. Only those new to their 10 km square are included. This is relative to the period since the flora mapping in the 1980s and 1990s for the 1993 Wiltshire Flora and recorded there.

Where a record is also a 1st county or vice-county record, this is stated at the end of the list of records for the species i.e. it doesn't say which specific record it is. An unqualified statement means that it is the first record ever, as far as is known. Where the word "recent" is inserted, it means that it is the first since the flora mapping began, but had been recorded before this period.

Where a recording square is only partly in Wiltshire, any comment on record status applies only to the part within Wiltshire.

Names are those in the 3rd edition of *New Flora of the British Isles* (Clive Stace 2010).

## Recorders

AA - Anne Appleyard  
AMe - Alan Merrywood  
CA - C Alexander.  
AM - Ailsa McKee  
ARb - Alison Robinson  
BGo - B Goater  
BCG - Bulford Conservation Group  
BCo - Cooke.  
CSh - C Shellswell  
DG - David Green  
DP - David Pickering  
GCa - G Cardy  
GH - Gareth Harris  
HT - H Thomas  
JAP - James A Prior  
JBE - J Bennett  
JBr - Jane Brown  
JNo - John Notman  
JRM - John Moon  
JSm - J Smith  
LBe - L Bersweden  
MDM - Malcolm E de Mowbray  
MBu - Martin Buckland  
MD - M Diserens  
MSt - Martin Stead  
MWR - Martin Rand  
NC - Nigel Cope  
ND - N Diserens



NJS - Nicholas Self  
NU - N Upton  
PD - Paul Darby  
PDS - Paul Stanley  
PMa - Peter Marston  
PMW - Pat Woodruffe  
PR - Phil Read  
PSk - Paul Skelton  
RAi - Richard Aisbitt  
RI - R Iacoban  
RL - Rob Large  
RRo - R Robinson  
SFi - Sue Fitzpatrick  
SG - Sarah Grinsted  
SHe - Sonia Heywood  
SJJ - S J Jackson  
SPi - Sharon Pilkington  
TC - Tom Cairns  
TKa - Tim Kaye  
TM - Tony Mundell  
U3AK - Kennet Flora and Fauna Group  
VC - Valerie Compton  
WBS - Wiltshire Botanical Society  
WWTWG - Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Wellbeing group  
YS - Young, Dr S.

SPTA - Salisbury Plain Training Area  
CCDA - Cross Country Driver Training Area  
CWP - Cotswold Water Park  
NNR - National Nature Reserve

## Vc 7

**Adiantum capillus-veneris**; **Maidenhair Fern**; DG; Bradford-on-Avon.  
**Agrostis gigantea**; **Black Bent**; SPi; Rodbourne.  
**Ailanthus altissima**; **Tree-of-heaven**; TM; Bradford-on-Avon, river.  
**Alchemilla mollis**; **Garden Lady's-mantle**; SPi; Little Somerford.  
**Ambrosia artemisiifolia**; **Ragweed**; DG; Bradford-on-Avon.  
**Antirrhinum majus**; **Snapdragon**; MBu; Calne, Marden.  
**Atriplex hortensis**; **Garden Orache**; DG; Bradford-on-Avon; 1st vice-county record.  
**Berula erecta**; **Lesser Water-parsnip**; JBr/WBS; South Cerney; Oaksey, Lower Moor Farm; TKa/WWTWG; Chelworth Lower Green, Blakehill Reserve.  
**Brassica napus subsp. oleifera**; **Oil-seed Rape**; RL; Great Bodnage Copse, locally frequent.  
**Brassica rapa subsp. campestris**; **Wild Turnip**; DG; Bradford-on-Avon.  
**Bromus secalinus**; **Rye Brome**; TC/DG; Bromham.

**Calamagrostis epigejos**; **Wood Small-reed**; SPi; Ashton Keynes, CWP Lakes.  
**Carex divulsa subsp. leersii**; **Many-leaved Sedge**; RAi/JBr/TC/GCa/PD; Notton; TC; Chittoe, Spye Estate, woodland.  
**Carex pulicaris**; **Flea Sedge**; SPi; Ashton Keynes, Clattinger Farm.  
**Centaurea debeauxii**; **Chalk Knapweed**; RAi; Lyneham.  
**Cerastium tomentosum**; **Snow-in-summer**; SPi; Hungerford Wood to Rudloe.  
**Chamaecyparis lawsoniana**; **Lawson's Cypress**; RL; Great Bodnage Copse, locally dominant; NJS; Derry Hill, Bowood Estate.  
**Chara vulgaris**; **Common Stonewort**; TC; Pewsham, Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal; Lacock, Wilts & Berks Canal; RAi; Broad Hinton, north of Barbury Castle.  
**Crepis biennis**; **Rough Hawk's-beard**; RAi; Swindon, Barnfield.  
**Datura stramonium**; **Thorn-apple**; DG; Bradford-on-Avon.  
**Dryopteris borrieri**; **Scaly Male-fern**; RAi; Fyfield, Totterdown Wood.  
**Eleocharis acicularis**; **Needle Spike-rush**; GH; Ashton Keynes, Cotswold Water Park.  
**Elodea nuttallii**; **Nuttall's Waterweed**; RAi; Broad Hinton, Fiddlers Hill.  
**Epilobium obscurum**; **Short-fruited Willowherb**; RAi; Minety, Ravensroost Wood.  
**Epilobium roseum**; **Pale Willowherb**; RAi; Lyneham, Honey Hill Copse, 2 places.  
**Erigeron acris**; **Blue Fleabane**; SPi; Calne, industrial estate.  
**Ficus carica**; **Fig**; SPi; Bradford-on-Avon; 1st county record.  
**Fumaria officinalis subsp. wirtgenii**; **Common Fumitory**; SPi; Malmesbury.  
**Geranium rotundifolium**; **Round-leaved Crane's-bill**; RAi/U3AK; Ramsbury.  
**Hirschfeldia incana**; **Hoary Mustard**; SPi; Ashton Keynes, CWP Lake; Beanacre.  
**Hyacinthoides x massartiana**; **Hybrid Bluebell (H. non-scripta x hispanica)**; RAi; Liddington, Medbourne Chalke County Wildlife Site; Ogbourne St George, Ridgeway; Chiseldon to Marlborough old railway line, 3 places.  
**Hypericum pulchrum**; **Slender St John's-wort**; RAi; Swindon, Southleaze.  
**Impatiens capensis**; **Orange Balsam**; JAP; Hilmar-ton; TC; Seend Cleeve, Kennet & Avon Canal, 3 places.  
**Juncus effusus var. subglomeratus**; RAi; Binc-knoll; Lyneham, Honey Hill Copse, 2 places.  
**Lathraea squamaria**; **Toothwort**; DG; Farleigh Wick, Inwoods, 2 places.



**Lemna gibba**; **Fat Duckweed**; RAi; Fyfield, Totterdown Pond.

**Lemna trisulca**; **Ivy-leaved Duckweed**; RAi; Marlborough Downs, Temple Farm.

**Linaria purpurea**; **Purple Toadflax**; MBu; Devizes.

**Lonicera nitida**; **Wilson's Honeysuckle**; RL; Studley, Crab Tree Copse and Searcher's Wood, locally frequent.

**Luzula multiflora**; **Heath Wood-rush**; RAi; Fyfield Down NNR.

**Luzula multiflora subsp. congesta**; **Heath Wood-rush**; RAi; Minety, Ravensroost Wood.

**Lysimachia punctata**; **Dotted Loosestrife**; RAi; Broad Hinton, Fiddlers Hill.

**Medicago sativa subsp. sativa**; **Lucerne**; RAi; Barnfield, Swindon.

**Mentha x verticillata**; **Whorled Mint (M. aquatica x arvensis)**; RAi; Roundway, Gopher Wood; RAi/JBr/TC/GCa/PD; Notton.

**Mimulus guttatus**; **Monkeyflower**; RAi; Marlborough Downs, Temple Farm.

**Myriophyllum aquaticum**; **Parrot's-feather**; RAi; Marlborough Downs, Temple Farm.

**Myriophyllum spicatum**; **Spiked Water-milfoil**; RAi; Marlborough Downs, Temple Farm.

**Nymphoides peltata**; **Fringed Water-lily**; TC; Devizes, Kennet & Avon Canal.

**Ornithogalum pyrenaicum**; **Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem**; DG; Farleigh Wick, Inwoods, 2 places.

**Petroselinum segetum**; **Corn Parsley**; RAi; Swindon, Barnfield.

**Phalaris arundinacea var. picta**; **Variegated Reed Grass**; RAi; Marlborough Downs, Temple Farm.

**Phlomis russeliana**; **Turkish Sage**; DG; Box, Wadswick Common; Box, Chapel Plaister; 1st county record.

**Platanthera chlorantha**; **Greater Butterfly-orchid**; HT; Roundway, Oliver's Castle.

**Polypodium interjectum**; **Intermediate Polypody**; RAi; Lyneham.

**Polystichum aculeatum**; **Hard Shield-fern**; RRo/RAi; Clevancy, Highway Wood; RA/ARb; Compton Bassett, Lower End Farm Hill.

**Potamogeton berchtoldii**; **Small Pondweed**; RAi; Berwick Bassett Pond.

**Potentilla x italica**; **P. erecta x reptans**; TC; Chittoe, Spye Estate the heath; 1st recent county record.

**Poterium sanguisorba subsp. balearicum**; **Fodder Burnet**; RAi/U3AK; Ramsbury; 1st county record.

**Primula x polyantha**; **False Oxlip (P. veris x vulgaris)**; AMe; South Cerney, Cotswold Canal.

**Prunus padus**; **Bird Cherry**; RAi/ARb; Compton Bassett, Lower End Farm.

**Pyrola rotundifolia subsp. rotundifolia**; SY; Gas-tard, Chapel Knapp; 1st county record.

**Ranunculus trichophyllus**; **Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot**; SPi; Little Somerford.

**Rosa tomentosa**; **Harsh Downy-rose**; RAi; Berwick Bassett Down.

**Rumex pulcher**; **Fiddle Dock**; TC; Seend, Kennet & Avon Canal.

**Sagina apetala subsp. apetala**; **Annual Pearlwort**; RAi; Swindon, Barnfield.

**Sagina filicaulis**; **Upright Pearlwort**; MBu; Devizes;; Calne, Blackland Park; Calne, Marden; SPi; Ashton Keynes, CWP Lakes; 1st vice-county record.

**Salix pentandra**; **Bay Willow**; RAi; Broad Hinton, Fiddlers Hill; Marlborough Downs, Temple Farm.

**Salix x smithiana**; **S. viminalis x caprea**; RAi; Marlborough Downs, Barbury Castle Farm.

**Sambucus ebulus**; **Dwarf Elder**; RAi/ARb; Compton Bassett, Lower End Farm.

**Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani**; **Grey Club-rush**; RAi; Broad Hinton, Fiddlers Hill; Marlborough Downs, Wick Down, pond.

**Sedum dasyphyllum**; **Thick-leaved Stonecrop**; DG; Cricklade.

**Soleirolia soleirolii**; **Mind-your-own-business**; MBu; Calne, Blackland Park.

**Solidago virgaurea**; **Goldenrod**; ARb; Hilmarton, Rodwell Farm.

**Symphytum x uplandicum**; **Russian Comfrey (S. asperum x officinale)**; RAi; Lyneham.

**Tilia cordata**; **Small-leaved Lime**; TC; Derry Hill, Bowood Lake.

**Tilia platyphyllos**; **Large-leaved Lime**; DG; Monkton Farleigh.

**Ulmus minor subsp. minor**; **Small-leaved Elm**; DG; Farleigh Wick, Inwoods.

**Valerianella locusta**; **Common Cornsalad**; RAi; Marlborough Downs, byway.

**Viola canina**; **Heath Dog-violet**; TC; Chittoe, Spye Estate, the heath.

**X Conyzigeron huelsenii**; **Erigeron acris x Conyza canadensis**; PDS; Calne, Porte Marsh Industrial Estate; 1st county record.

## Vc 8

**Aesculus carnea**; **Red Horse-chestnut**; SFi; Laverstock, Bourne valley.

**Agrostemma githago**; **Corncockle**; JNo; Stourton, Stourhead Park; CSh; Newton Tony.

**Alnus cordata**; **Italian Alder**; JRM; Tidworth, SPTA(E).

**Alnus incana**; **Grey Alder**; JRM; Tidworth, SPTA(E).

**Amaranthus retroflexus**; **Common Amaranth**; PMW; Landford, Whitehouse Farm.

**Anemone blanda**; **Balkan Anemone**; SFi; Compton Chamberlayne; Fisherton de la Mere; Fovant; 1st vice-county record.

**Anthriscus caucalis**; **Bur Chervil**; DP; Gillingham.

**Antirrhinum majus**; **Snapdragon**; SFi; Stratford Tony.

**Aquilegia vulgaris**; **Columbine**; AA/SFi; Amesbury.

**Aster x salignus**; **Michaelmas Daisy** (*A. lanceolatus x novi-belgii*); PMW; Whiteparish, A36 Pepperbox Hill.

**Aubrieta deltoidea**; **Aubretia**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre; 1st vice-county record.

**Barbarea intermedia**; **Medium-flowered Wintercress**; SFi; Burcombe; Dinton, Grovely Wood.

**Beta vulgaris subsp. cicla**; **Foliage Beet**; SFi; Salisbury, Bourne valley.

**Brassica rapa subsp. campestris**; **Wild Turnip**; DG; Bradford-on-Avon; 1st county record.

**Briza maxima**; **Greater Quaking-grass**; SFi; Alderbury.

**Bromopsis inermis**; **Hungarian Brome**; SPi; Westbury, street.

**Bromus commutatus**; **Meadow Brome**; SFi; Martin Down; CSh; Damerham.

**Bromus secalinus**; **Rye Brome**; SPi; Westbury, roadside; DG; Trowbridge, Trowle Common.

**Calamagrostis epigejos**; **Wood Small-reed**; JBE/SPi; Tidworth, Sidbury Hill.

**Calendula officinalis**; **Pot Marigold**; SFi; Salisbury, 3 places.

**Calystegia silvatica**; **Large Bindweed**; AA/SFi/PMW; South of Winterslows, Bentley Wood.

**Campanula portenschlagiana**; **Adria Bellflower**; SFi; Fovant.

**Campanula poscharskyana**; **Trailing Bellflower**; SFi; Broad Chalke; Compton Chamberlayne; Crouchston; Faulston; Fovant; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Carduus tenuiflorus**; **Slender Thistle**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Carex divulsa subsp. leersii**; **Many-leaved Sedge**; WBS; Fonthill Gifford, Fonthill Abbey, wood; RAi/JBr/MBu/PD; Donhead St Andrew.

**Carex strigosa**; **Thin-spiked Wood-sedge**; RL; Whaddon, Hightrees Wood, occasional.

**Catapodium rigidum**; **Fern-grass**; SPi; Warminster, Battlesbury Hill.

**Centaurea debeauxii**; **Chalk Knapweed**; CA; Between Bratton and Heytesbury, Imber Ranges; RAi/SP/WBS; West Lavington; JRM; Tidworth, SPTA(E); JRM/JBE/SPi; Tidworth, Sidbury Hill; AA/MDi/PMW; West Lavington; JSm; Tilshead, Vedette post; PMW; Whiteparish, Pepperbox Hill.

**Centaurea montana**; **Perennial Cornflower**; RAi/SPi; Chicks Grove, Quarry Farm; SFi; Great Wishford.

**Centaureum pulchellum**; **Lesser Centaury**; SPi; Warminster, Sack Hill.

**Cerastium diffusum**; **Sea Mouse-ear**; SFi; Teffont Magna, Wylde Downs NNR.

**Cerastium semidecandrum**; **Little Mouse-ear**; SFi; Wylde Downs NNR, several places.

**Cerastium tomentosum**; **Snow-in-summer**; SFi; Salisbury, two places; Broad Chalke; Fovant; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Ceratocarpus claviculata**; **Climbing Corydalis**; JSm; Crockerton, Shearwater.

**Chamaecyparis lawsoniana**; **Lawson's Cypress**; RL; Littleton Panell, Manor House Wood, occasional.

**Chenopodium hybridum**; **Maple-leaved Goose-foot**; SFi; Wilton, Warren Down.

**Cirsium eriophorum**; **Woolly Thistle**; SJJ; Tollard Royal.

**Claytonia sibirica**; **Pink Purslane**; MDM; Ansty, Gore Copse.

**Cochlearia danica**; **Danish Scurvygrass**; PMW; Landford, A 36.

**Convallaria majalis**; **Lily-of-the-valley**; AA/SFi; Amesbury.

**Conyza bonariensis**; **Argentine Fleabane**; SPi; Westbury; SFi; Salisbury; 1st county record.

**Conyza floribunda**; **Bilbao's Fleabane**; SPi; Trowbridge, roadside; Salisbury, roadside; Warminster, roadside; 1st county record.

**Cornus sericea**; **Red-osier Dogwood**; AA/SFi; Dauntsey, 2 places; Amesbury, 2 places; SFi; Winterbourne Amesbury; Gomeldon, 2 places.

**Cotoneaster franchetii**; **Franchet's Cotoneaster**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre; 1st vice-county record.

**Cotoneaster horizontalis**; **Wall Cotoneaster**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora**; **Montbretia** (*C. aurea x pottsii*); SFi; Fovant; Cobley, Vernditch Lodge.

**Crocus vernus**; **Spring Crocus**; SFi; Cobley, Vernditch Chase.

**Deschampsia flexuosa**; **Wavy Hair-grass**; SFi; Fovant.

**Dryopteris affinis**; **Scaly Male-fern**; RL; Whaddon, Hightrees Wood; JSm; Semley; RAi/JB/MBu/PD; Donhead St Andrew, Ten Acre Copse.

**Dryopteris borrieri**; **Scaly Male-fern**; SPi; Trowbridge, Green Lane Wood.

**Echinops bannaticus**; **Blue Globe-thistle**; SFi; Salisbury, Bourne valley; 1st vice-county record.

**Epipactis helleborine**; **Broad-leaved Helleborine**; PSk; Damerham, SPTA W.

**Equisetum fluviatile**; **Water Horsetail**; SFi; Broad Chalke, 2 places.

**Erigeron karvinskianus**; **Mexican Fleabane**; PMW; Whiteparish.

**Erodium cicutarium**; **Common Stork's-bill**; CSh; Damerham; JRM; Tidworth, Sidbury Hill, 2 places;



Tidworth, Bean Corner Stone Curlew Plot; Brigmerston, Stone Curlew Plot.

**Erysimum cheiranthoides**; **Treacle-mustard**; SPi; Stert.

**Erysimum cheiri**; **Wallflower**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Euphorbia lathyris**; **Caper Spurge**; SFi; Fisherton de la Mere; Fovant.

**Euphorbia waldsteinii**; **Waldstein's Spurge**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Euphrasia nemorosa x confusa**; BGo/SPi/MWR; Tidworth, SPTA CCDA; 1st county record.

**Euphrasia pseudokernerii**; BGo/SPi/MWR; Tidworth, SPTA CCDA.

**Fallopia baldschuanica**; **Russian-vine**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre; PMW; Whiteparish, A27 Brickworth.

**Filago pyramidata**; **Broad-leaved Cudweed**; SPi; Tidworth, Salisbury Plain military crossing; 1st county record.

**Galium palustre subsp. palustre**; **Common Marsh-bedstraw**; JSm; Crockerton, Shearwater.

**Galium uliginosum**; **Fen Bedstraw**; SFi; Broad Chalke.

**Geranium pusillum**; **Small-flowered Crane's-bill**; SFi; Dinton, Grovely Wood, 2 places.

**Geranium sanguineum**; **Bloody Crane's-bill**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Glyceria notata**; **Plicate Sweet-grass**; SFi; Winterbourne Stoke; Broad Chalke, 3 places; Bishopstone.

**Gunnera tinctoria**; **Giant-rhubarb**; SFi; Winterbourne Dauntsey.

**Hieracium salticola**; **Bluish-leaved Hawkweed**; DG; Trowbridge, railway, 2 places; 1st vice-county record.

**Hordeum distichon**; **Two-rowed Barley**; SFi; Little Langford, A36 layby; SFi; Salisbury, ring road.

**Hordeum distichon sens. lat.**; **Barley**; SPi/WBS; Collingbourne Kingston, Everleigh Ashes.

**Hyacinthoides hispanica**; **Spanish Bluebell**; JRM; Faberstown, 2 places; Ludgershall Centre; SFi; Fovant.

**Hyacinthoides x massartiana**; **Hybrid Bluebell (H. non-scripta x hispanica)**; AA/SFi; Amesbury; SFi; Martin.

**Hypericum calycinum**; **Rose-of-Sharon**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Hypericum maculatum**; **Imperforate St John's-wort**; SPi/SG; Market Lavington, SPTA.

**Impatiens capensis**; **Orange Balsam**; TC; Semington, Kennet & Avon Canal, 3 places.

**Iris foetidissima**; **Stinking Iris**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Lactuca serriola**; **Prickly Lettuce**; JSm; Warminster, Danger Area.

**Lactuca virosa**; **Great Lettuce**; PMW; Whiteparish, A36/A27 junction at Brickworth Corner; Salisbury, Old Sarum Airfield; SFi; Britford Downs, 2 places.

**Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum**; **Garden Yellow-archangel**; SPi/WBS; Collingbourne Kingston, Everleigh Ashes; AA/SFi; Amesbury; JRM; Ludgershall Centre; Tidworth, Perham Down East.

**Lamium hybridum**; **Cut-leaved Dead-nettle**; CSh; Newton Tony.

**Lamium maculatum**; **Spotted Dead-nettle**; JRM; Faberstown; SFi; Wilton.

**Lathyrus latifolius**; **Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea**; BCo/SG/SPi; Shrewton, SPTA.

**Lemna gibba**; **Fat Duckweed**; SPi; Trowbridge, The Down.

**Lemna minuta**; **Least Duckweed**; JSm; Semley.

**Lepidium campestre**; **Field Pepperwort**; JSm; Tilshead Down; SPi; Stoford; Eastcott; SFi; Alderbury, A36 layby.

**Linum usitatissimum**; **Flax**; CSh; Allington.

**Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum**; **Purple Gromwell**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre; 1st county record.

**Lobelia erinus**; **Garden Lobelia**; SPi; Westbury, Newtown.

**Lonicera nitida**; **Wilson's Honeysuckle**; SPi; Trowbridge, Green Lane Wood; NC/She/RI; Larkhill, Stonehenge area, occasional.

**Lonicera xylosteum**; **Fly Honeysuckle**; SFi; Avon valley, Salisbury.

**Lunaria annua**; **Honesty**; SJJ; Ambrose Copse (+ surrounds).

**Lysimachia punctata**; **Dotted Loosestrife**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Malva neglecta**; **Dwarf Mallow**; SFi; Fisherton de la Mere, downs.

**Medicago sativa subsp. sativa**; **Lucerne**; JBr/PD/AM/PR; West Lavington, The Warren; JRM; Ludgershall.

**Minuartia hybrida subsp. tenuifolia**; **Fine-leaved Sandwort**; WBS; Larkhill, Silk Hill.

**Muscari armeniacum**; **Garden Grape-hyacinth**; SFi; Wilton; JRM; Faberstown.

**Myosotis discolor**; **Changing Forget-me-not**; SFi; Martin Down.

**Myosotis sylvatica**; **Wood Forget-me-not**; AA/SFi; Amesbury.

**Narcissus hispanicus**; **Spanish Daffodil**; JRM; Faberstown; 1st county record.

**Narcissus maculobus**; **Pale-flowered Daffodil**; MDM; Gore Copse; 1st county record.

**Narcissus x incomparabilis**; **Nonesuch Daffodil Div. II**; JRM; Faberstown.

**Nigella damascena**; **Love-in-a-mist**; SFi; Salisbury; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Oenothera biennis**; **Common Evening-primrose**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Omphalodes verna**; **Blue-eyed-Mary**; SFi; Fovant; 1st vice-county record.

**Ornithogalum umbellatum sens. lat**; **Star-of-Bethlehem**; PMW; Farley, byway.

**Oxalis corniculata**; **Procumbent Yellow-sorrel**; SPi; Dilton Marsh; SPi; Easterton.

**Oxalis exilis**; **Least Yellow-sorrel**; PMW; Whiteparish.

**Oxalis stricta**; **Upright Yellow-sorrel**; PMW; Whiteparish.

**Pastinaca sativa subsp. sativa**; **Parsnip**; JSm; Warminster, Danger Area; 1st county record.

**Persicaria wallichii**; **Himalayan Knotweed**; JBE; Crockerton, Longleat Forest; 1st vice-county record.

**Pilosella aurantiaca**; **Fox-and-cubs**; SPi; Warminster, Sack Hill.

**Pinus nigra**; **Austrian Pine/Corsican Pine**; JRM; Tidworth, SPTA(E); Ludgershall West; Collingbourne Kingston, outside Everleigh Ashes.

**Platanthera bifolia**; **Lesser Butterfly-orchid**; VC; Coombe Bissett Down Reserve.

**Poa angustifolia**; **Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass**; JRM; Tidworth, CCDA, 2 places; Ludgershall, 2 places.

**Polygonatum x hybridum**; **Garden Solomon's-seal**; SPi; Zeals, Combe Bottom.

**Polypodium interjectum**; **Intermediate Polypody**; SFi; Salisbury.

**Polypogon monspeliensis**; **Annual Beard-grass**; PMA; Bramshaw, Telegraph.

**Polypogon viridis**; **Water Bent**; SPi; Warminster, Station Road.

**Populus balsamifera**; **Eastern Balsam-poplar**; RL; Littleton Panell, Manor House Wood, locally frequent; 1st vice-county record.

**Populus x canescens**; **Grey Poplar (P. alba x tremula)**; SFi; Broad Chalke; 1st county record.

**Potamogeton lucens**; **Shining Pondweed**; SFi; Croucheston.

**Potamogeton natans**; **Broad-leaved Pondweed**; JRM; Bulford, SPTA(E) Nine Mile River, 2 places.

**Prunus cerasifera**; **Cherry Plum**; JRM; Fabers-town; Ludgershall Centre.

**Prunus domestica subsp. insititia**; **Damson/Bullace**; SPi; Westbury, Wellhead Drove.

**Prunus lusitanica**; **Portugal Laurel**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Puccinellia distans**; **Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass**; SPi; Zeals A303; SFi; Salisbury, ring road, 2 places.

**Pyrus communis sens. lat**; **Pear**; MDM; Ansty, Gore Copse.

**Quercus petraea**; **Sessile Oak**; NC/She/RI; Larkhill, Stonehenge area, occasional.

**Quercus rubra**; **Red Oak**; AA/SPi/PMW; Plaitford, Hants.

**Ranunculus penicillatus subsp. pseudofluitans**; **var. pseudofluitans**; RA/SPi; Chicksgrove, Quarry Farm.

**Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. raphanistrum**; **Wild Radish**; SPi; Westbury, White Scar Hanging; JSm; Tilshead, Horse Down.

**Ribes nigrum**; **Black Currant**; SFi; Broad Chalke, 2 places; Throope.

**Rorippa amphibia**; **Great Yellow-cress**; RAi/SPi; Chicksgrove, Quarry Farm.

**Rosa rubiginosa**; **Sweet-briar**; DG; Semington.

**Rosa rubiginosa agg**; **Sweet-briar**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre.

**Rosa x scabriuscula**; **Rosa canina x tomentosa**; DG; Devizes, Caen Hill Locks; 1st vice-county record.

**Rubus tricolor**; **Chinese Bramble**; SPi; Trowbridge, River Biss.

**Rumex hydrolapathum**; **Water Dock**; SFi; Fisherton de la Mere; Martin.

**Sagina apetala subsp. apetala**; **Annual Pearlwort**; SPi/SG; Chirton Down.

**Sagina filicaulis**; **Upright Pearlwort**; SPi; Stert; JBE/SPi; Tidworth, Sidbury Hill; SFi; Salisbury, 2 places.

**Salix x holosericea**; **S. cinerea x viminalis**; JRM; Tidworth, Sidbury Hill, 2 places; 1st county record.

**Sedum rupestre**; **Reflexed Stonecrop**; SFi; Dinton.

**Sedum spurium**; **Caucasian-stonecrop**; SFi; Wick.

**Senecio viscosus**; **Sticky Groundsel**; TKa; Devizes.

**Soleirolia soleirolii**; **Mind-your-own-business**; SFi; Compton Chamberlayne; Fovant; RAi/SPi; Chicksgrove, Quarry Farm.

**Sorbus intermedia**; **Swedish Whitebeam**; SFi; Whaddon; AA/SFi; Amesbury; PMW; East Grimstead, near Church; 1st vice-county record.

**Stachys byzantina**; **Lamb's-ear**; JRM; Tidworth, SPTA(E) Windmill Hill (S); 1st vice-county record.

**Stachys x ambigua**; **Hybrid Woundwort (S. palustris x sylvatica)**; SFi; Coombe Bisset; Martin.

**Stellaria neglecta**; **Greater Chickweed**; RAi/SPi; Chicksgrove, Quarry Farm.

**Symphytum grandiflorum**; **Creeping Comfrey**; SFi; Fisherton de la Mere; JRM; Ludgershall, 2 places.

**Symphytum x hidcotense 'Hidcote Blue'**; **Hidcote Comfrey**; SFi; Fisherton de la Mere; JRM; Tidworth, SPTA(E) Windmill Hill (S).

**Symphytum x uplandicum**; **Russian Comfrey (S. asperum x officinale)**; RA/SPi/WBS; West Lavington; JRM; Ludgershall Centre; Ludgershall, Collingbourne Wood.

**Tellima grandiflora**; **Fringecups**; SFi; Wilton.

**Teucrium fruticans**; **Shrubby Germander**; JRM; Ludgershall Centre; 1st county record.



## Books from Gillian King

Gillian is “decluttering” and would like to offer her botanical books to WBS members - see the list below. Please contact Richard Aisbitt if you would like any of these. Any remaining titles would be added to the WBS library.

Author	Title
Sharon Pilkington	Wiltshire Rare Plant Register
None	Arbres, Arbustes, Herbes, et Fleurs du Parc Nationale Des Gevennes
Elsbeth Beckett	Illustrated Flora of Mallorca
Oleg Polunin &	A Guide to the Vegetation of Britain and Europe
Clem Maidment	Plant Associations
Paul Sebillot	La Flore (Le Folklore de France)
Francois Pinet	Flore Remarquable du Parc Naturel Regional de la Brenne
Jacques Trotignon &	Guide Nature de la Brenne
None	Flore du Parc National des Cevennes
Georges Guende	Flore Du Luberon
Yiannis Christofides	The Orchids of Cyprus
None	The University of Bristol Botanic Garden
Marjorie Blamey &	Mediterranean Wild Flowers
Oleg Polunin	Flowers of Greece and the Balkans - A Field Guide
Oleg Polunin &	Flowers of South West Europe - A Field Guide
Richard Fitter &	The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe
Paul Davies & Bob Gibbons	Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Southern Europe
Clive Stace	New Flora of the British Isles
Arnold Darlington	The Pocket Encyclopedia of Plant Galls

## Books from Jeremy Wood

Jeremy’s family have kindly passed on some of his botanical books to the society. The titles are listed below. If you would like any of these, please get in touch with Pat Woodruffe. As with Gillian’s books, any remaining titles would be added to the WBS library.

Title	Author
The Origin of Plants - The People and plants that have shaped Britain's Garden History since the year 1000	Maggie Campbell-Culver
Wild Flowers of the World - a thousand beautiful plants painted by Barbara Everard	Brian Morley
The Art of Botanical Illustration	Martyn Rix
Margaret Mee's Amazon	Margaret Mee
The Concise British Flora in Colour	W Keble Martin
Dictionary of Plant Names	Allen Coombes
The Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers	McClintock & Fitter
Orchidees d'Europe	Duperrex & Dougoud
Atlas Colorie de la Flore Alpine	Beauverie et Faucheron
Alpine Flora (in German)	Schroter
The Concise Flowers of Europe	Polunin
The Bulbous Plants of Turkey	Mathew & Baytop
The Genus Cyclamen	C Grey-Wilson
Himalayan Flowers and Trees	Mierow & Shrestha
Wild Flowers of Kashmir	Coventry
Sander's Orchid Guide 1926	Sander

# Subscriptions

Subscriptions become due in January; please get your payment to Sue Fitzpatrick. The rates are:

Single member £15.00  
Family membership £20.00

Sue's address: Dr Sue Fitzpatrick, 7 Wyndham Park, Wyndham Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3BA  
Phone and email: 01722 410807, [susan@fitzpatrick7.plus.com](mailto:susan@fitzpatrick7.plus.com)

You can set up a standing order: details from Sue.

We hope that you will renew and take part in the society's activities.

## Protected Roadside Verges

The county has almost 60 protected verges and almost all of these have Verge Monitors who look after them and record their wildlife. However, several are "orphans" and Emma Glover contacted me to see if any members would like to take on one or more of these. She supplied the following information about the verges.

"Roadside verges strewn with wild flowers, on chalk downland and limestone grassland, are one of the distinctive aspects of the Wiltshire countryside. Under a scheme begun in 1970, around fifty road verges throughout the county are designated as Protected Road Verges because of their special habitat, species or ecological interest.

Typical species-rich communities found on the chalk and limestone verges support Pyramidal and Bee orchids, Field Scabious, Rock-rose and Fairy Flax. These verges also support rich invertebrate communities including Glow-worms and many species of butterflies.

Verges on clay soils support a varied neutral meadow flora including species such as Adder's-tongue fern, Nettle-leaved Bellflower and Bath Asparagus. Ancient woodland verges in the Cotswolds in particular support a spectacular ground flora in the spring including species such as Solomon's Seal and Fly Orchid. A

verge near Chittoe supports the only Tower Mustard in the county, continually recorded there since 1670!

Unfortunately sandwiched between modern agricultural practices and heavy traffic, road verges are under threat of damage caused by vehicles parking on verges, pollution from vehicle emissions and salt spray, inappropriate planting, fly tipping and herbicide drift from adjacent farmland.

Verges given protected status are carefully selected and have to meet rigorous criteria. They are marked with posts at either end. Each verge has an individual management plan designed to protect and enhance its flora and fauna. Wiltshire Council, their contractor Atkins and the WSBRC work in partnership to protect and care for protected road verges.

Each verge has a volunteer who checks on the condition of the verge and records the wildlife found there; each year these records are sent to the WSBRC and Wiltshire Council to ensure the wildlife interest is maintained.

If you are interested in joining the scheme as a monitor or could submit a



Tilshead Verge survey - John Presland

species list for a particularly special verge near you, please contact Emma Glover at Wiltshire Council on 01225 718478 or [emma.glover@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.glover@wiltshire.gov.uk)."

The orphan verges in need of volunteer monitors are:

- Warminster (Bee and Common spotted orchids)
- Fonthill, 3 verges, near Hindon (Hellebores, Dusky cranesbill and orchids)
- Pepperbox Hill A36 near Salisbury (National Trust site, juniper)
- Ansty Down off A30 near Tisbury (chalk downland flora)
- Conholt near Ludgershall (chalk downland flora)
- Winsley Hill (limestone flora)
- Ford to Giddeahall A420 near Chippenham (limestone flora)

You can find out more from the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre website. Google "WSBRC" and click "Get Involved" and then "WSBRC Surveys".

You can download this newsletter (and other recent newsletters) in colour from [www.wiltsbotsoc.co.uk](http://www.wiltsbotsoc.co.uk)