

LIVERPOOL BOTANICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN 98

JANUARY 1992

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INDOOR MEETINGS 1992/93

These are held at the Museum, William Brown Street at 19.30. Council meetings are at 19.00.

FEBRUARY 11th 1992	Dr Angus Gunn - Unbelievable Plants.
MARCH 10th	<i>Dr</i> Ms Martha Newton - The Moss World.
APRIL 14th	Miss Joan Vincent - Tanzania; Sea Level to Snow Line.
OCTOBER 13th	Mr Mel Roberts - Succulents.
NOVEMBER 10th	Holiday Exhibits 1992 - All members are invited to contribute.
DECEMBER 8th	Mr Peter Gateley - Part 2; Sefton Dune Area.
JANUARY 12th 1993	Annual General Meeting and Résumé of 1992 Field Meetings. All members are invited to participate.
FEBRUARY 9th	Miss Vera Gordon - 2 weeks in the Canadian Rockies.

FIELD MEETINGS 1992

APRIL 25th, 1992	Caergwrle. Leader: Miss V. Gordon. 09.21 train from Liverpool Central to West Kirby, alight at Bidston, then 09.41 train to Wrexham, alight at Caergwrle at 10.23.
MAY 23rd	Pleasington. Leader: Miss M. Wilson. 09.37 train from Liverpool Lime Street Station to Blackpool change Preston for 10.49 train to Colne, alight at Pleasington at 11.06.
JUNE 20th	Parr and Sutton Moss. Leader: Mrs P. Lockwood. 09.27 train from Liverpool Lime Street Station to York, alight at St Helens Junction at 09.53.
JULY 4th	Bryn to Wigan. Leader: Mrs E. Stevenson. 09.37 train from Liverpool Lime Street Station to Blackpool, alight at Bryn at 10.09.
JULY 25th	Cefn-y-Bedd to Gwersyllt. Leader: Miss V. Gordon. 09.21 train from Liverpool Central to West Kirby, alight at Bidston, then 09.41 train to Wrexham, alight at Cefn-y-Bedd at 10.25.
AUGUST 8th	New Ferry and Storeton Woods. Leaders: Mr G. Sloman and Dr K. Watson. 09.41 train from Liverpool Central to Hooton, alight at Rock Ferry at 09.51.
AUGUST 22th	Hilbre Island. Leader: Miss J. Bentley. 09.21 train from Liverpool Central to West Kirby, arrive at West Kirby at 09.47. N.B. It is essential to leave the island by 2.45p.m.
SEPTEMBER 12th	Erddig. Leader: Miss V. Gordon. 09.21 train from Liverpool Central to West Kirby, alight at Bidston, then 09.41 train to Wrexham, arrive at Wrexham Central at 10.37.
OCTOBER 3rd	Freshfield. Leader: Mrs P. Lockwood. 09.35 train from Liverpool Central to Southport, alight at Freshfield at 10.03.

April 4th 1992

NWNU are holding a Mycological Meeting at the Museum from 10.30 - 4.00p.m. with Roy Watling from the Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh and Mrs Rita Cook, Regional Survey Organiser for the recording of 12 Common Species. All welcome to attend.

N.B. Members should please note that bus and train times for all the field trips should be verified on current time tables. Winter times only i.e. up to May 10th, are available at the time of publication. Food should be carried on field meetings.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1992 are due in January and should please send them to the Hon. Treasurer, otherwise it will be assumed that the membership is terminated.
Annual subscription rate: £1.00.

REPORTS OF FIELD MEETINGS 1991

13th APRIL. DIBBINSDALE. Leader: Dr K. Watson.

On a very fine spring day the party admired drifts of *Anemone nemorosa*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, and especially fine cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) with wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) in full flower. Wood rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) and golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) were seen on the sandstone exposures on the path to St. Patrick's well. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) was showing good regeneration in Marford's wood. At lunch, moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) was seen with interesting beech seedlings, just starting to germinate. *Viola riviniana* was in flower on the path to the Dibbinsdale Road with bluebell just coming into flower. Then leaves of winter heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) were seen, and three-nerved sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) on the hill and cut-leaved dead-nettle (*Lamium hybridum*) in the field back towards Dibbinsdale. On the way back to Spital enormous marsh marigolds (*Caltha palustris*) were admired near the stream and white poplar (*Populus alba*) at Spital field.

25th MAY. CAERGWRLE and HOPE MOUNTAIN. Leader: Miss V. Gordon.

The most memorable sights were the fields yellow with cowslips, with patches of early purple orchids, *Ranunculus auricomus* and bird cherry (*Prunus padus*) among many species adorning the hedge banks.

22nd JUNE. NOB END. Leader: Miss P. Tolfree.

The wooded Croal Valley produced fine specimens of *Blechnum spicant* and *Oreopteris limbosperma* besides other more common ferns. The alkaline ash at Nob End had its usual show of blue-eyed grass, marsh and spotted orchids and some *Ophioglossum*. Fragrant orchids were still in tight bud.

6th JULY. BURGYPARKS. Leader: Mr P. Gateley.

A hot dry day made climbing the steep sides of the Burgyparks slightly safer. The Islands Brow bank held notable large numbers of *Orobancha minor*, including many very large specimens. The Haresfinch bank's most interesting vegetation was found in the stands of inland sand dune where an array of normally coastal species was noted. The visit was timed to catch the end of the orchid flowering but this was an early season and few plants were noted in flower. From these and from ripening seed-heads it could be seen that numbers of flowering spikes were low this year. The changes in surface vegetation of the canal near the town centre were discussed and it was noted that the section of waterway between United Glass and the new double locks was in course of substantial restoration.

20th JULY. AINSDALE and FRESHFIELD. Leader: Mrs P. Lockwood.

The alien grass *Bromus inermis* was noted before we arrived at the dune slacks where a fine colony of *Carex disticha* was examined. Among it were flowers of *Potentilla palustris* and marsh pennywort. In less developed slacks the ground was pink with bog pimpernel. Fringes of *Sagina nodosa* marked the margins of winter pools and in damper places *Baldellia ranunculoides* and *Littorella uniflora* were flowering. A couple of pyramidal orchids were seen and one flowering spike of yellow bird's nest orchid. Among many other flowers were *Epipactis palustris*, *E. phyllanthos*, *Pyrola rotundifolia* ssp. *maritima*, *Parnassia palustris* and *Ophioglossum*.

3rd AUGUST. FAZAKERLEY. Leader: Miss V. Gordon.

The morning was spent at a disused railway siding where the cinders were carpeted with the coral necklace (*Illecebrum verticillatum*). In one place tiny plants of *Corrigiola littoralis* were found. *Verbascum densiflorum* made a good show and *Hirschfeldia incana* was also seen. The walk along the canal will be remembered for the abundant fringed water-lily (*Nymphaeodes peltata*) and the hybrid *Typha x glauca*.

24th AUGUST. HALE SHORE. Leader: Miss V. Gordon.

Sea asters were in good flower and along the clay banks the pink flowered *Calystegia sepium* ssp. *roseata* was abundant. Further down the river the higher clay cliffs had good colonies of teasel, *Blackstonia* and bristly ox-tongue (*Picris echioides*). A few sea pinks were still in flower and the tide mark was yellow with masses of fallen anthers from the *Spartina* grass.

21st SEPTEMBER. HELSBY and FRODSHAM.. Leader: Miss M. Wilson.

12 members climbed the slopes of Helsby Hill through silver birch and bracken, *Rhododendron ponticum* indicating former parkland, and mountain ash on the crags. Crossing the valley to Frodsham Hill a cave attracted attention in which luminous moss (*Schistostega pennata*) was seen, a first for most. By the wayside was the Duke of Argyll's tea tree (*Lycium halimifolium*), a harvest of damsons in an abandoned orchard, tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) and hairy bindweed (*Calystegia pulchra*). On the slopes of Frodsham Hill bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and a few remaining plants of *Corydalis claviculata* were seen. Returning to Helsby over the marsh, *Malva neglecta* and white bryony (*Bryonia dioica*) were noted.

5th OCTOBER. BIDSTON HILL and WOODS. Leader: Miss J. Bentley.

We were pleased to welcome Rita Cook of the British Mycological Society and another visitor, making a total of 15. Our member John Jakeman, Warden of the Bidston Hill area, led the morning session, but previous dry and cool weather meant that fungi were thin on the ground. However, sprinklings of false chanterelle and a good specimen of *Hypholoma capnoides* were found, also *Collybia maculata*, coral spot (*Nectria cinnabarina*), common ink cap (*Coprinus atramentarius*), parasol mushroom (*Lepiota procera*) and birch bracket fungus.

The morning was wet but Mr Jakeman had arranged for lunch to be eaten under cover and also opened the windmill for us, a bonus because by then there was sunshine and a blue sky. Afterwards we investigated the grounds of the former Bidston Court at Noctorum, preserved as a public amenity. Though this yielded virtually nothing fungal it was interesting to note the planting of the garden last century, including two Maidenhair trees and a fine glaucous *Cedrus atlantica*.

REPORTS OF INDOOR MEETINGS 1991

JANUARY. The A.G.M. was followed by a resume of 1990 field meetings when slides recalled the places visited and plants seen.

FEBRUARY. Miss Gordon described a fortnight botanising in Southern Poland. Among places visited were Warsaw for an historical tour, Treblinka extermination camp where a good steppe flora had developed, the ancient Bialoweiza forest where bison and wild boar roamed. Then to Cracow and the last week at Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains where habitats ranged from peat bogs with *Calla palustris*, limestone hills, granite mountains and wooded gorges. A good selection of Central European species were seen.

MARCH. Mr Peter Gateley gave an illustrated account of the Flora of Ben Lawers. Maps showed the geology and topography and slides depicted views, habitats, contrasting weather conditions and the species seen during the walk from the car park to the summit.

APRIL. Mr Greenwood at short notice gave a talk on the changes in the Flora of West Lancashire. He showed a geological map and described the surface geology of peat, blown sand and boulder clay. The history of the vice-county from late glacial age to changes due to the human activities was described. Accounts of the flora from 1907 onwards was compared with recent records and the gains and losses discussed. Weather graphs showed a warming since 1907, drainage of marshes for agriculture, fertiliser washout and coastal development were among contributing factors. Distribution maps of selected species invited discussion.

OCTOBER. Dr Goronwy Wynne showed colour plates and maps for the Flora of Flint now in the printer's hands. He then gave his talk on Greenland. Useful fact sheets were distributed and then enlarged upon. He then described the journey to Western Greenland, then by helicopter 200 miles to the lower mountains from where the party of 6 did a 14-day trek back. Slides illustrated scenery and plants, some of which were rare British mountain species. A pullover which was displayed, made of wool from the musk-ox collected from shrubs, was one of the interesting exhibits.

NOVEMBER. Member's holiday exhibits. Miss Bentley showed a collection of fungi from her garden. Miss Davis showed slides illustrating her holiday in New Zealand and Tasmania. Mr Gateley's slides were taken of plants seen at Branton Burroughs, Snowdonia and the Scottish Highlands and Miss Gordon's were from Sicily at Easter, Bernese Oberland in June and the Peloponnese in October.

DECEMBER. A fern video was shown of most British species and their habitats and distinctive characters. Herbarium sheets from the museum's collection were examined and a collection of recent and old fern books.