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INDOOR MEETINGS 1993/94

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

FEBRUARY 9th 1993 Miss Vera Gordon - 2 weeks in the Canadian Rockies.
 MARCH 9th Dr Hugh McAllister - Santolinas.
 OCTOBER 12th Mr Fred Rumsay - Recent research on the Killarney Fern.
 NOVEMBER 9th Holiday Exhibits 1993 - All members are invited to contribute.
 DECEMBER 14th Ms Rachel Janes - Azolla and Lemna minuta.
 JANUARY 11th 1994 Annual General Meeting and Resumé of 1993 Field Meetings. All members are invited to participate.
 FEBRUARY 8th Mr Douglas Lockwood - Environmental aspects of the work of the Merseyside Development Corporation.

FIELD MEETINGS 1993

APRIL 17th, 1993 Hope. Leader: Miss V. Gordon.
 09.21 train from Liverpool Central to West Kirby, alight at Bidston, then 09.41 train to Wrexham, alight at Hope at 10.21.
 MAY 8th Douglas Valley to Haigh. Leader: Mr P. Gateley.
 09.11 train from Liverpool Central to Kirkby, then 09.32 train to Wigan Wallgate, arrive at 09.57.
 JUNE 5th Great Orme. Leaders: Ms W. McCarthy and Mr J. Benson.
 08.26 train from Liverpool Central to Hooton, then 08.53 train to Chester, arrive at 09.07, and take the 09.31 train to Llandudno, arrive at 10.38. Please inform Miss V. Gordon if you intend to go 051 928 3814
 JUNE 26th Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Leader: Miss M. Wilson.
 Meet at Sandhills Station at 10.00.
 JULY 10th Hall Road to Hightown. Leader: Miss V. Gordon.
 09.50 train from Liverpool Central to Southport, alight at Hall Road at 10.10.
 JULY 24th Sankey Valley south from Earlestown.
 Leader: Mrs P. Lockwood.
 09.27 train from Liverpool Lime Street to Manchester, alight at Earlestown at 09.57.
 AUGUST 14th Source of the Alt - Stadt Moers Country Park and Windy Arbor. Leader: Mr P. Gateley.
 09.42 train from Liverpool Lime Street to Manchester, alight at Huyton at 09.56.
 AUGUST 28th Shotton to Chester along the River Dee.
 Leader: Dr K. Watson.
 09.21 train from Liverpool Central to West Kirby, alight at Bidston, then 09.41 train to Wrexham, alight at Shotton at 10.04.
 SEPTEMBER 18th Heswall Shore. Leader: Miss J. Bentley.
 No. 472 bus from Victoria Street (near Tunnel) at 09.40, arrive at Heswall Bus Station at 10.24.
 OCTOBER 2nd Dibbinsdale. Leader: Dr K. Watson.
 09.26 train from Liverpool Central to Hooton,

and should please send them to the Hon. Treasurer, otherwise it will be assumed that the membership is terminated.
Annual subscription rate: £1.50.

REPORTS OF INDOOR MEETINGS 1992

JANUARY. The A.G.M. was followed by a resumé of 1991 field meetings when slides recalled the places visited and plants seen.

FEBRUARY. "Unbelievable Plants" by Dr Angus Gunn was in the style of the television programme "Call My Bluff". Unbelievable descriptions, some true some false had to be correctly applied to words such as Bifer, Isabelline, Elphinwood, Gosling and Eritrichulus.

MARCH. Martha Newton's talk "The Moss World" was illustrated by slides of Mosses and Hepatics and their various habitats. Their life cycle, vegetative and sexual reproduction and spore dispersal were explained. 10 of the 32 species of Sphagnum were illustrated and diagnostic characters pointed out.

APRIL. Joan Vincent showed slides illustrating "Tanzania, Sea Level to Snow Line". A small party travelled from Dar es Salaam south, along the Rift Valley and then north to Kilimanjaro. Habitats from coastal sands, desert areas, volcanic craters, arid lakes, sub-alpine and alpine mountain areas were shown with a selection of species typical of each area.

OCTOBER. With 3 trays of potted plants, Mel Roberts demonstrated many types of succulents and explained how and why they have evolved from many genera belonging to different families throughout the world. Slides illustrated species in colourful flower and tips were given on cultivation.

NOVEMBER. Members holiday exhibits. Peter Gateley's slides showed plants seen at Wicken Fen, north to Ben y Vrachie, Glen Clova, Coire Fee, Teesdale and also some good local ones. Dr John Edmondson gave a detailed account of the Missouri Botanic Garden illustrated with many slides. Vera Gordon's slides were of plants in the Alps, of the Queyras National Park and also in Western Turkey.

DECEMBER. Peter Gateley gave the second part of his talk on the Sefton Dune Area continued from December 1990, when the coast south of Formby was described. Slides showed the wind and tide erosion of recent years in the Freshfield area and accretion further north. The effect on slacks and vegetation was described and photographs illustrated the flora of various habitats.

REPORTS OF FIELD MEETINGS 1992

25th APRIL. CAERGWRLE. Leader: Miss V. Gordon.

While alternate-leaved golden saxifrage had finished flowering, there were still some fresh spikes of toothwort among a large colony mostly over. Down by the River Alyn ramsons and male and female spikes of butterbur were in flower. A carpet of moschatel (townhall clock) covered one hedgebank and primroses, cowslips, wild hyacinths, wood anemones, violets and early purple orchids were among the wealth of spring flowers.

23th MAY. PLEASINGTON. Leader: Miss M. Wilson.

On a lovely walk through meadows, woodland and riverside the typical species of the area were seen. These included Montia sibirica, both the usual pink and also the white form, bistort, wood horsetail, sweet cicely, wood stitchwort, leaves of giant hogweed and wood betony. In the wetter areas hemlock water-dropwort, brooklime and water crowfoot

20th JUNE. PARR AND SUTTON MOSS. Leader: Mrs P. Lockwood.

Derelict land from old mines surrounded by mossland produced a long list of species. Dactylorhiza fuchsii, some 2ft. tall, marsh orchids and marsh helleborine with narrow-leaved cotton grass and other sedges on the Moss. Planted on the pit heaps Alnus cordata, A. incana and Robinia pseudoacacia were doing well and there also the alien moss Campylopus introflexus made a thick carpet in places.

4th JULY. BRYN TO WIGAN. Leader: Mrs E. Stevenson.

The main features of this area are the flashes due to subsidence after mining. Carex pseudocyperus was especially fine and Typha x glauca was found growing nearby its parents T. angustifolia and T. latifolia which was useful for comparison. At the disused power station a thick growth of willow and birch had choked out many orchids but D. fuchsii and Epipactis palustris were good and some early fungi were noted.

25th JULY. CEFN-Y-BEDD TO GWERSYLLT. Leader: Miss V. Gordon.

309 species were recorded at this meeting. Calcareous pebble beds produced Geranium columbinum, Knautia arvensis, Epipactis helleborine, twayblade, bee orchids, musk mallow and musk thistle. A small lake was full of large tussocks of Carex paniculata with some Scirpus sylvaticus in one corner. Tellima grandiflora was well-established on a narrow steep woodland with a bush of Rubus parviflorus.

8th AUGUST. NEW FERRY AND STORETON WOODS. Leader: Dr K. Watson.

On a morning of continuous rain a party of eight members walked from Rock Ferry, through Rock Park to the promenade then along the coast to New Ferry. Maritime plants seen were grass-leaved orache (Atriplex littoralis), reflexed saltmarsh grass (Puccinellia distans), sea sandwort (Honkenya peploides), sea rocket (Cakile maritima), sea aster (Aster tripolium) and sea plantain (Plantago maritima). Hoary ragwort (Senecio erucifolius) was common on the cliffs at New Ferry and compared to S. jacobaea. An unusual crucifer, wallflower cabbage (Coincya moensis, ssp. recurvata, formerly Rhynchosinapis cheiranthos) was found on waste ground at Bromborough Pool.

At lunchtime a thoroughly drenched party agreed not to proceed to Storeton Woods.

22nd AUGUST. HILBRE ISLAND. Leader: Miss J. Bentley.

15 members and 2 guests enjoyed a mainly fair though windy expedition. Here also we welcomed the interest shown by the Warden, Vicky Seager, who handed us lists of the flora and fauna recorded on the islands. We found good specimens of rock sea-lavender (Limonium britannicum ssp. celticum, formerly L. binervosum agg.) and well-established colonies of rock sea spurrey (Spergularia rupicola), sea beet (Beta vulgaris maritima), sea purslane (Halimione portulacoides) and sea spleenwort (Asplenium marinum). Having to return to West Kirby before the incoming tide we also had the opportunity to visit the Red Rocks Nature Reserve, where parsley water dropwort (Oenanthe lachenalii) was particularly interesting and further along we found garden orache (Atriplex hortensis) growing 3 ft. tall by the sea wall.

12th SEPTEMBER. ERDDIG. Leader: Miss V. Gordon.

The most memorable of the many species of fungi in the woods were the giant polypore (Meripilus giganteus) 3 ft. in diameter, and also the pure white Helvella crispa. Water mint (Mentha aquatica) and spearmint (M. spicata) were growing in wet places in the valley with their spontaneous hybrid peppermint (M. x piperata). Above the valley forming almost a hedge was another hybrid Fallopia x bohemica. The giant knotweed and Japanese knotweed were seen some distance away earlier.

3rd OCTOBER. FRESHFIELD. Leader: Mrs P. Lockwood.

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