

FLORA GROUP NEWSLETTER SPRING / SUMMER 1993

Dear Flora Group Member,

I hope you enjoyed the winter season's events and found them useful / interesting. We have arranged five events for the Summer and look forward to seeing you. The rare arable 'weed' event was requested by Ted Pratt; if anyone else has any ideas of things for the Flora Group to do in the future, please let me know. We want to arrange events which YOU would like to do. Thanks go to Joan Cocksedge who has offered her help to the Flora Group; Joan has been a great help in making the arrangements for this season's activities.

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 29th May 1993 Wild Flower Festival at East End.

As you will see from the enclosed copy of the poster, the United Reformed Church at East End are holding a Wild Flower Festival. Similar events held at East End have proved to be very popular and enjoyable. This year there will be a HWT sales table and display as well as a series of short guided walks. Flora Group members are particularly encouraged to attend the first of these guided walks at 11am on Saturday 29th May when Clive Chatters will be leading a walk to discover New Forest rarities in the vicinity. If any members would be interested in leading other walks over the weekend, please contact Helen Baczowska at HWT on 0794 513786.

Saturday 19th June 1993 Umbellifer Training Day.

Mervyn Southam has kindly offered to lead a training day on umbellifers at 10am on 19th June at the Upper Hamble Country Park. Meet in the Farm Museum car park at grid reference SU 509119.

Saturday 26th June 1993 Arable Weed Day

Last year we held an interesting day looking at ground pine Ajuga chamaepitys and cut - leaved germander Teucrium botrys near Harewood Forest, Andover. This year we will be visiting two other Estates. At 10am on 26th June we shall be meeting in the Cheesefoot Head car park at grid reference SU 529277 and then shall have a walk around the Longwood Estate near Winchester. The following species have been recorded here - Silene noctiflora, Euphorbia exigua, Legousia hybrida and Kickxia elatine. There are also old records of Ajuga chamaepitys. Thanks are due to Mike Howe, the farm manager, for giving us permission to have a look around the farm.

Whilst we are at Longwood, we shall also have a look at Longwood Warren, a chalk grassland Countryside Heritage Site which the Estate have been managing sympathetically.

In the afternoon we shall travel to Longparish to visit the excellent range of rare arable weeds on this nationally important site. The good headlands at this farm have been designated as a Countryside Heritage Site by Hampshire County Council. Species recorded on this farm include Adonis annua, Torilis arvensis, Scandix pecten-veneris, Papaver hybridum, Fumaria parviflora, F. micrantha, Papaver argemone, Valerianella dentata, Silene noctiflora, Legousia hybrida, Euphorbia exigua and Kickxia spuria. Thanks are due to Mr B Faulds for allowing us to visit his farm. We hope that Dr Philip Wilson will be able to attend this event; he has studied the ecology and requirements of rare arable weeds in great depth and has an excellent knowledge of the species found at this farm.

Sunday 11th July 1993 Bramshill

Chris Hall has kindly offered to lead a session in the Bramshill area. Meet at 11am in the small car park at grid reference SU 760613, at the south-east corner of Bramshill Common. Before lunch we shall walk south to Warren Heath Ponds SSSI to see the club mosses. In the afternoon we shall explore Bramshill Common; this site was surveyed in the 1980s and was known to support Lycopodiella inundata, Parentucellia viscosa and Hypericum elodes and it would be exciting to re-discover these species. Since the surveys of the 1980s there has been a degree of earth moving on the eastern half and several new ponds have been dug; none of these recently-formed habitats have been botanised.

Chris Hall writes:-

"Heathland plants in Hampshire are far more associated with the New Forest than anywhere else, but it is the heaths of the north-east which support the county's only certainly extant colony of Lycopodium clavatum. The location, on Eversley (Upper) Common, is particularly interesting because Lycopodium was known here to Rose Kingsley in the 1870s. She records how children would gather it when ripe with spores, then play 'at making sham lightning by shaking the yellow dust into a candle flame'.

Rose Kingsley, who was daughter of Charles Kingsley, the writer, rector and naturalist, knew the clubmoss in two places, where it grew luxuriantly. One was in ruts by the 'ancient pack horse way on the flats', a reference to the Welsh Drive, an old drove road, where it crosses Hartfordbridge Flats, and now Blackbushe Airfield. The second was in sand pits by the way up to Bramshill Park across Eversley Common.

In both places it grew until 1908, but in the following year a great fire swept across the heaths, and she searched in vain in the years after. During the 1920s, all of Eversley Common was planted up by the Forestry Commission. Once the timber had been harvested about 50 years later, the plateau was systematically quarried for gravel, then restored and replanted.

On the sloping gravel banks of a newly created pond, a miniature heath of Calluna vulgaris began to grow. The pond margins grew a red rim of Drosera rotundifolia. In 1985 Lycopodium clavatum was discovered on the gravel, where it was protected from the direct heat of summer by birch scrub. Initially there were perhaps ten plants; by 1992 there were at least 25 scattered along a part of the bank.

The colony is very close to the old track which leads over Eversley Common from Eversley rectory to Bramshill Park. While we can never know for sure this is the same locality as known by Rose Kingsley, it must be close. And the clubmoss keeps good company: also in the vicinity are Osmunda regalis, Anagallis minima, Pilularia globulifera and Lycopodiella inundata."

Sunday 8th August 1993 Basingstoke Canal - Aquatic Plant Training Day

Chris Preston of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood, has kindly agreed to lead a day studying aquatic plants on the Basingstoke Canal. Meet at 10.30am at the entrance to the Greywell Tunnel at grid reference SU 718514. (Cars will have to be left elsewhere as parking is not available close to the Tunnel entrance). Having looked at the calcareous plants at the western end, we shall look at plants growing in more acidic conditions further east along the canal.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

White Way Man Orchid Site Scrub Clearance (28th February 1993)

"I was asked the other day by Catherine if I would write a bit about the work party at the White Way man orchid site. I agreed somewhat reluctantly (never been too happy doing proper joined-up writing!) but having just returned from counting the orchids I feel inspired. This has got to be the most important man orchid site in Hampshire, the other known sites being the two Meon Valley NNRS - Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill.

This year we have only found about eight basal rosettes showing on the two NNRS but I have just counted about ten at White Way on the west-facing bank only along with fly orchids and abundant twayblades. I think this just shows how important the scrub clearance in February was. Many of the rosettes are still under scrub indicating more work is needed next year to give a more secure future. If anyone visits the site this year please send details to me at Drocheneford, Mill Lane, Droxford, Southampton, Hampshire, SO3 1QS so that we can accurately monitor our efforts. Finally a quick word of thanks to Mr Eric Martin the landowner, for his permission to carry out the work and for his tractor and trailer to remove the cut scrub but most of all to all who did the work; thanks - see you all next year."

Mick Finnemore

(Warden, Old Winchester Hill and
Beacon Hill).

Lobelia urens - Heath lobelia

The Hampshire population of heath lobelia is being studied by Janet Dinsdale, a doctoral student from the University of Plymouth. Our population appears different from those in the south west of England in that it retains winter-green rosettes; the other populations seem to die away completely. Also, the Hampshire population appears to be static with some signs of being composed of both annual and perennial plants.

Clive Chatters

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Schedule 8

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 5 and 8)
Order 1992 came into force on 29th October 1992. This Order added the
following plants to Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act :-

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
IW — Blackwort	<i>Southbya nigrella</i>
Caloplaca, Snow	<i>Caloplaca nivalis</i>
Catapyrenium, Tree	<i>Catapyrenium psoromoides</i>
H — Catillaria, Laurer's	<i>Catellaria laureri</i>
IW — Centaury, Slender	<i>Centaureum tenuiflorum</i>
Cladonia, Upright Mountain	<i>Cladonia stricta</i>
Clary, Meadow	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>
Crystalwort, Lizard	<i>Riccia bifurca</i>
Cudweed, Broad-leaved	<i>Filago pyramidata</i>
Dock, Shore	<i>Rumex rupestris</i>
Earwort, Marsh	<i>Jamesoniella undulifolia</i>
Flapwort, Norfolk	<i>Leiocolea rutheana</i>
Frostwort, Pointed	<i>Gymnomitrium apiculatum</i>
Gentian, Dune	<i>Gentianella uliginosa</i>
H/IW — Gentian, Early	<i>Gentianella anglica</i>
Grimmia, Blunt-leaved	<i>Grimmia unicolor</i>
Gyalecta, Elm	<i>Gyalecta ulmi</i>
Hawkweed, Northroe	<i>Hieracium northroense</i>
Hawkweed, Shetland	<i>Hieracium zetlandicum</i>
Hawkweed, Weak-leaved	<i>Hieracium attenuatifolium</i>
H — Lecanactis, Churchyard	<i>Lecanactis hemisphaerica</i>
Lecanora, Tarn	<i>Lecanora archariana</i>
Lecidea, Copper	<i>Lecidea inops</i>
Lichen, Arctic Kidney	<i>Nephroma arcticum</i>
Lichen, Ciliate Strap	<i>Heterodermia leucomelos</i>
Lichen, Coralloid Rosette	<i>Heterodermia propagulifera</i>
Lichen, Ear-lobed Dog	<i>Peltigera lepidophora</i>
Lichen, Forked Hair	<i>Bryoria furcellata</i>
Lichen, Golden Hair	<i>Teloschistes flavicans</i>
Lichen, Orange Fruited Elm	<i>Caloplaca luteoalba</i>
Lichen, River Jelly	<i>Collema dichotomum</i>
Lichen, Scaly Breck	<i>Squamarina lentigera</i>
Lichen, Stary Breck	<i>Buellia asterella</i>
Liverwort	<i>Petallophyllum ralfsi</i>
Liverwort, Lindenberg's Leafy	<i>Adelanthus lindenbergianus</i>
H — Moss	<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i>
Moss, Alpine Copper	<i>Mielichoferia mielichoferi</i>
Moss, Baltic Bog	<i>Sphagnum balticum</i>
Moss, Blue Dew	<i>Saelania glaucescens</i>
Moss, Blunt-leaved Bristle	<i>Orthotrichum obtusifolium</i>
Moss, Bright Green Cave	<i>Cyclodictyon laetevirens</i>
Moss, Cordate Beard	<i>Barbula cordata</i>
Moss, Cornish Path	<i>Ditrichum cornubicum</i>
Moss, Derbyshire Feather	<i>Thamnobryum angustifolium</i>
Moss, Dune Thread	<i>Bryum mamillatum</i>
Moss, Glaucous Beard	<i>Barbula glauca</i>
Moss, Green Shield	<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>
Moss, Hair Silk	<i>Plagiothecium piliferum</i>
H — Moss, Knothole	<i>Zygodon forsteri</i>

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Moss, Large Yellow Feather	Scorpidium turgescens
Moss, Millimetre	Micromitrium tenerum
Moss, Multifruited River	Cryphaea lamyana
Moss, Nowell's Limestone	Zygodon gracilis
Moss, Rigid Apple	Bartramia stricta
Moss, Round-leaved Feather	Rhyncostegium rotundifolium
Moss, Schleicher's Thread	Bryum schleicheri
IW-Moss, Triangular Pygmy	Acaulon triquetrum
Moss, Vaucher's Feather	Hypnum vaucheri
Mudwort, Welsh	Limosella australis
Naiad, Slender	Najas flexilis
Orache, Stalked	Halimione pedunculata
Orchid, Lapland Marsh	Dactylorhiza lapponica
Pannaria, Caledonia	Pannaria ignobilis
H -Parmelia, New Forest	Parmelia minarum
Parmentaria, Oil Stain	Parmentaria chilensis
Penny-cress, Perfoliate	Thlaspi perfoliatum
Pertusaria, Alpine Moss	Pertusaria bryontha
Physcia, Southern Grey	Physcia tribacioides
H -Pine, Ground	Ajuga chamaepitys
Plantain, Floating Water	Luronium natans
Pseudocyphellaria, Ragged	Pseudocyphellaria lacerata
Psora, Rusty Alpine	Psora rubiformis
Rampion, Spiked	Phyteuma spicatum
Rustwort, Western	Marsupella profunda
Saxifrage, Marsh	Saxifrage hirulus
Solenopsora, Serpentine	Solenopsora liparina
Stonewort, Bearded	Chara canescens
Turpswort	Geocalyx graveolens

The following plants have now been removed from Schedule 8 :-

Sea Lavender	{	Limonium paradoxum
		Limonium recurvum
Purple Spurge		Euphorbia peplis.

Those species found on the Island or in Hampshire are marked with "IW" or "H" as appropriate.

Field Cow Wheat - Melampyrum arvense

With the generous support of English Nature's Species Recovery Programme, Bass the brewers and Ventnor Botanic Gardens the Trust has employed national 'weed' expert and Flora Group Member Phil Wilson to investigate this colourful plant, its ecology and conservation requirements. The Trust's St. Lawrence nature reserve is probably the main population left in the country. This year an estimated 10,000 seedlings appeared after last year's 2000 plants. The Ventnor Botanic Gardens are trying to germinate seed to determine whether it can be re-introduced into former locations. At the time of writing this newsletter the seed had yet to sprout. We hope we can grow and maintain a population in the Gardens as this will mean Islanders and visitors can enjoy this spectacular Island speciality without pressurising the tiny native site.

Clive Chatters

Chamomile - Chamaemelum nobile

The Trust and Plantlife are jointly supporting a project to assess the status and conservation requirements of chamomile. This study has arisen from a spot check using recent County Floras which indicates the plant may have declined from being a widespread species to being nationally scarce. The plant appears to have become extinct in many vice-counties and even in the strongholds in the New Forest and the West Country it is less common. The project is to be undertaken by Heather Winship over the summer. Heather's work will include desk studies and contacting botanists to determine the present distribution of the plant. She will also undertake field work to consider management needs, together with likely reasons for extinction or survival in well recorded populations. If you are aware of any surviving, or recently extinct, populations of chamomile, please let Heather Winship know; she can be contacted at the HWT office.

Clive Chatters.

and finally.....the Flora Group events are open to all interested botanists. If you know anyone who may be interested in attending any event, please let them know. Our mailing list can always be added to. If you are on the mailing list and wish to be taken off, please let the HWT office, or me (Catherine Chatters) know.

Catherine Chatters
(Flora Group Secretary)

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WILD FLOWER FESTIVAL

at

EAST END

United Reformed Church, Village Hall and Garden
6th annual 3 day event

SATURDAY 29 SUNDAY 30 MONDAY 31 MAY
10am to 6pm daily

Location: 4,5 miles south west of Beaulieu, and east of Lymington

WILDLIFE ART EXHIBITION. Paintings by local artists featuring wildlife organised by and submission forms from Esmé Bartlett. Telephone (0590) 67355

Arrangements and displays of wild flowers

HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST: Sales Table
Short guided walks, at 11am, 12.30, 2.30 and 4.30pm
Display: Churchyards and Wildlife

Bring and buy. Light refreshments. Fellowship. All welcome.

6.30pm SUNDAY 30 MAY

Service of praise and thanksgiving for creation, on Whitsunday and at Penteco

Preacher: Doctor Marion Schofield from Chandler's Ford
Organist: Paul Boniface from Hordle

ENJOY SOME 'RURAL SPIRIT'