

FLORA GROUP NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1994

Dear Flora Group Member,

A number of events have been arranged for Spring/Summer 1994. Details are as follows:-

Saturday 16th April 1994
Tower Mustard *Arabis glabra*
at Mears Kingsley Quarry

Tim Rich has written to Hampshire Wildlife Trust to explain that Plantlife is arranging a scrub clearance task to benefit tower mustard as part of the "Back from the Brink" project. Tower mustard has declined drastically and is now being added to the Red Data Book. Francis Rose has requested help for one of the two populations in Hampshire at Kingsley. Scrub is growing over the site leaving little open ground for the plants.

If you would like to help with this task to cut and burn the scrub, meet at Kingsley, SU 779378 (OS map 186) at 2pm on Saturday 16th April 1994. Bring gloves, saw and loppers if you have any. Tim Rich says that the nearest railway station is at Bentley on the Alton line. He is willing to pick people up from the station, if arranged in advance, any time from 1 - 1.45 pm. Tim can be contacted at 37 Hartfield Road, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5DY. Tel (0342) 826239.

Saturday 21st May 1994
South Coast of Hayling Island

The Wildflower Society have invited us to join them on a visit to the South Coast of Hayling Island to look at shingle habitats and aliens (with Eric Clements). Meet at 9.30am at The Ship Public House at Langstone. Bring Lunch.

Sunday 22nd May 1994
Angular Solomon's Seal *Polygonatum odoratum*
in the New Forest

One of the more curious plants recorded from the New Forest is angular Solomon's seal *Polygonatum odoratum*. This plant is usually considered a specialist of limestone crags and woodlands but has been reliably recorded from the Ocknell area. There are no recent records of the plant as it is believed to have been severely damaged, if not destroyed, by the widening of the A31. Our visit to the historic locality will seek to determine if it survives and what else of the rich flora with which it was associated persists. In the afternoon we will split up into four groups to search the New Forest localities into which the plant was introduced in the 1970s. An excellent day's botanising can be guar-

anteed with New Forest specialities and the chance of interesting rediscoveries.

Meet at 10.30am on Sunday 22nd May at Ocknell car park SU 233120. A brisk walk across the Forest (about half a mile) is required to reach the site. Leader - Heather Winship.

28th, 29th, 30th May 1994
Wildflower Festival at East End, New Forest

Last year the Flora Group led a walk across the open Forest near East End as part of the annual East End Wildflower Festival. Rev'd John Whapham has asked whether anyone would be willing to lead a similar walk to look at local plants at 11am on Saturday 28th May. If anyone is willing to help in this way, please telephone John Whapham on (0590) 65647.

Saturday 4th June 1994
Early Gentian *Gentianella anglica*
Afton Down, Isle of Wight

John Hoskins of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee has agreed to lead a Flora Group walk across Afton Down on the Isle of Wight. This is the locality of *Gentianella anglica* plus a range of other interesting species including hoary stock *Mathiola incana* and wild cabbage *Brassica oleracea*. Afton Down is also an excellent site for birds and is a classic Isle of Wight butterfly site.

If anyone would like to attend this event, please leave a message for Clive Chatters at the HWT office, telephone (0794) 513786. For Flora Group members travelling to the Island from Hampshire we suggest you catch the 10.15am ferry from Lymington. If you let Clive know you will be attending he will make arrangements for transport from the ferry terminal at Yarmouth to Afton Down. If you are coming under your own steam we will be in the Freshwater Bay car park (near the Albion Hotel) shortly after 11am.

Wednesday 15th June 1994
Umbellifer evening with Mervyn Southam

Last year Mervyn led a fascinating day studying Umbellifers at the Upper Hamble Country Park. He has kindly invited Flora Group members to visit his magnificent collection of Umbellifers in his garden at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15th June. Mervyn's garden is at 72 Fareham Road, Gosport, PO13 0AG.

Tel (0329) 2334726

Sunday 19th June 1994
Habitat Survey Training Day

Flora Group member, Dr Sarah Ball, has organised a habitat survey training day. The day will be based in the Test Valley and will cover techniques of surveying a variety of habitats including woodland, arable edge, wetlands, etc. The purpose of the day is to help those who are interested in recording their local patch, be it the local recreation ground, or a farm or parish. The techniques do not need great botanical knowledge and the day will be aimed at those who share an interest - not just the experts! Meet at Longparish Village hall at 10.30am. Bring Lunch. Leader - Clive Chatters.

Saturday 1st October 1994 1994
Joint event with Sussex Flora Group

The Sussex Flora Group have invited us to join them for a day on the Hampshire/Sussex borders. Meet at Linchmere Church SU 869309 at 10.45am on Saturday 1st October. The morning will be spent at Linchmere Common (Surrey) and the afternoon will be spent looking at heathland habitats in the Hampshire Weald. We hope to visit renowned heath and bog sites including Shortheath Common. If you would like to see species such as the sundews *Drosera* spp and Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*. Please wear long boots. A dry shod alternative will be available.

GROUND PINE SEARCH

The national botanical conservation "Plantlife" is taking the lead in investigating the status and conservation needs of Ground Pine *Ajuga chamaepitys*. Recent Trust Flora Group visits have sought out this plant successfully (near Andover) and unsuccessfully (near Winchester). We have offered to help Plantlife by thoroughly searching all the historic Hampshire localities in 1994. These are scattered across the county near Andover, Sutton Scotney, Winchester, Bishop's Waltham and Micheldever. If you would like to look for the plant on field margins and "set-aside" ground in your area either in spring or mid-late summer, please contact Dr Sarah Ball for details. Sarah's address is Conifer Cottage, The Dell, Kingsclere, Newbury, RG15 8NL, tel (0635) 297397.

NEW FOREST LICHENS

Neil Sanderson spent some of this winter surveying the New Forest working for the Wildlife Trust with the financial help of the Forestry Commission and English Nature. The survey was into the distribution and conservation needs of two lichen now protected by law *Parmelia minarum* and *Catillaria laureri*. One of the unexpected findings of the survey was the rediscovery of *Enterographa elaborata* a species thought to have been extinct in Britain for over 100 years. The survey also confirmed that the holly pollarding promoted by the Flora Group is both beneficial to special lichen

communities and to the Forest stock. A summary of the report is available from the Trust office (please send Clive a s.a.e. marked 'New Forest Lichens').

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION LIST

In the previous Flora Group Newsletter (Autumn 1993) Flora Group members were asked to let Catherine Chatters know if they would like to remain on the mailing list. If you would like to continue receiving the Flora Group newsletter and your name is not on the following list, please let Catherine Chatters know. Catherine can be contacted c/o English Nature, 1 Southampton Road, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BU.

Felicity Anderson	Loraine Martin
Dr Sarah Ball	Connie Martyn
Dick Barratt	Hilary May
Andrea Bassett	Dr John Moon
Alison Bolton	Tony Mundell
Paul Bowman	Veronica Norden
Lady Anne Brewis	Jack Oliver
Andrew Branson	John Ounsted
Eve Brook	Dr Colin Pope
Dr Peter Brough	Andrew Powling
Mary Cockerill	Rev Ted Pratt
Joan Cocksedge	David Reed
Roger Clooney	Joy & Peter Rollinson
Alan Crundwell	Dr Francis Rose
Geoffrey Field	Ann Rutherford
Mick Finnemore	Neil Sanderson
Mary Flatt	Vera Scott
George Forster	Mr & Mrs Sherlock
Chris Hall	Rod Stern
Derek Hill	Nick Sturt
Audrey Hold	Alan Thurbon
Ralph Hollins	Dr Roger Veall
Rosemary Horne	Robin Walls
Stewart Houghton	Mike Wildish
Dave House	Dr Phil Wilson
Jen & Dave Howse	Dave Winsland
Katy Long	Elizabeth Young

If you attend any Flora Group events and would like to write a short piece about it for inclusion in future Flora Group Newsletters, please send your 'article' to Catherine Chatters.

If you have any ideas for future Flora Group events, please let Catherine Chatters know or pass your ideas on to any of the other Flora Group Committee members.

Clive Chatters	-	(0794) 513786*
Joan Cocksedge	-	(0252) 617127
Mary Flatt	-	(0962) 772419
Dr Sarah Ball	-	(0635) 297367
Neil Sanderson	-	(0703) 844442

We hope to meet you again on some Flora Group events during 1994.

*After the Trust's move to Eastleigh [April 94] (0703) 613636