

SUSSEX BOTANICAL RECORDING SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER APRIL 1996

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The request for records of Arum italicum subsp. neglectum, our rare native Italian Lords-and-Ladies, during November, when the leaves of this species are above ground (while those of Arum maculatum, the common Lords-and-Ladies, are not seen before December or later), was accepted with enthusiasm, resulting in a total of 73 colonies in 31 tetrads reported - including 7 tetrads new to the Sussex Plant Atlas. Most of these were recorded by Beryl and Ron Clough on the coastal plain, and by Elizabeth and Nick Sturt at the foot of shady north-facing downland coombes. Two distinct habitats, and the Sturts and the Cloughs have agreed to write a paper for us with some detailed notes on the results of their studies on this species. Meanwhile, thanks to all who sent in Arum records last winter.

The BSBI/Plantlife Mistletoe Survey is nearing completion. Paul and I would be pleased to receive any records - with tetrads (or grid references) and host trees - which you have not sent in already.

Mary Briggs

CORRECTION TO FIELD MEETINGS 1996

Please note that the grid reference for the first meeting (April 27th) should be SU913222. Anyone who goes to the grid reference as given in the January newsletter will find themselves approximately one mile NW of Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire.

Chairman's Note.

We are looking forward to the interesting and varied programmes of visits which Pat Donovan and Alan Knapp have arranged this year. We will, however, miss George Forster who was a regular attender at our meetings since 1982.

George came to our get-together on 28th October although he was not well then and not long afterwards had to go to hospital, where he died on 18th January. He was 76, but seemed to be much younger because of his energy and enthusiasm.

He was born and brought up in Dundee. From an early age he developed a wide range of interests, including becoming proficient in playing bagpipes and knowledgeable about Radar. He graduated as an Engineer and during the war he was with the Ministry of Aircraft Production, stationed at Boscombe Down in Wiltshire, where he was a civilian observer on test flights, having several hair-raising experiences.

In 1947 he married Cynthia who was working in the Ministry's H.Q.; they lived in various places including St. Albans, Coventry and East Horsley (Surrey) before he returned to Boscombe Down, where they stayed for 12 years, living at Idminton and making many friends in the Salisbury area. When he transferred to CAA, they moved to Farnham where they lived for 13 years.

George retired in 1979. He had always been an enthusiastic ornithologist and frequently visited the South Coast see the birds. He and Cynthia found Selsey a pleasant place so they moved there in 1982. Cynthia had herself been interested in wild flowers, and as a result of this and encouragement from the Wild Flower Society, George became an enthusiastic botanist. He soon became an expert and contributed much to the work of Surrey Flora Committee before he came to Sussex.

George's involvement in Sussex botany has been considerable. Apart from much valuable recording of vascular plants, he contributed in a major way to the Atlas of Sussex Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens through putting the whole of this on his computer. He had to tolerate many amendments before the disks were finally delivered to Booth Museum for publication. In recent years he was working on a Flora of the New Forest, collaborating with Jill Read who will take it to publication, hopefully in a year or two's time.

The SBRS has suffered a great loss. George was a valued Committee member for several years, but perhaps it was his enthusiasm and knowledge on field meetings we shall miss most. We offer Cynthia our sympathy for her sad loss. I am glad to say that she wishes to continue with the SBRS and hopes to attend some of the meetings.

Rod Stern.

NOTABLE PLANT RECORDS 1995 - VC14

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
Anagallis minima	Pound Corner	ER/RN	
Cardamine amara	Nr Litlington	HP	
Carex x boeninghausiana	Pippingford	TCGR/PAH	2nd VC record.
C. curta	Newbridge Danehill	TCGR TCGR/PAH	
C. elongata	Danehill	TCGR/PAH	
C. muricata ssp. lamprocarpa	Gills Lap Duddleswell	PW TCGR	
C. pulicaris	Warbleton	SBRS	
C. viridula ssp. brachyrrhynca	Warbleton Nr Eridge	SBRS AWJ	
Carpobrotus edulis	Bexhill	RP	
Chenopodium quinoa	Warbleton	AWJ	1st VC record.
Cotoneaster hjelmqvistii	Legsheath	TCGR	
Eleocharis palustris ssp. ssp. palustris	Herons Ghyll Newhaven	TCGR JM	1st VC record. 2nd VC record.
Eruca vesicaria ssp. sativa	Brighton	AS	
Fumaria capreolata	Bexhill	RP	
Hypericum x desetangsii	Forest Row	PD/DB	
Lagurus ovatus	Brighton	SC	
Lepidium latifolium	Lewes	AS	
Mentha requienii	Forest Row	TCGR	
Neottia nidus-avis	Brightling	JO	
Oemleria cerasiformis	East Grinstead	RB	
Ononis spinosa	Rye Harbour Alciston	LBB ML	
Petasites hybridus	Bexhill	RP	
Phegopteris connectilis	Nr Wych Cross	C.Marrable/ N.Muggeridge	
Phyteuma spicatum	Warbleton	SBRS	
Polypodium x mantoniae	Blackboys	RC	
Pyrus pyraster	Friston Forest	MT	

RECORDS 1995 - VC14 - continued:-

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Forest Row	PAH/AGH/ AGK	
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Crowborough	PW	
<i>R. x dumetorum</i>	Quabrook	TCGR	1st VC record
<i>R. x pseudorusticana</i>	Forest Row	PW	1st VC record.
<i>Rubus bloxamii</i>	Ashdown	DE	'Piglet' car park.
<i>R. cantianus</i>	Fairwarp	RR/TCGR	1st VC record.
<i>R. hastiformis</i>	Fairwarp	RR/PAH	
<i>R. rudis</i>	Fairwarp	RR/PAH	1st VC record.
<i>Sibthorpia europaea</i>	Herons Ghyll	TCGR	
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	Brighton	AS	
<i>Utricularia australis</i>	Herons Ghyll Southease	TCGR DCL	

Compiled by Paul Harmes. NB List includes species recorded earlier,
but determined or confirmed in 1995.

NOTABLE PLANT RECORDS 1995 - VC13

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<i>Allium scorodoprasum</i>	Billingshurst	SS	100's suddenly appeared in garden.
<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	Billingshurst	SS	Pavement.
	Crawley	AGH	
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	Milland	FA	Bog beside pond.
	Nr Milland	RCS	Garden lawn.
	High Beeches	AGK/SBRS	
<i>Apium inundatum</i>	Iping Common	FA	
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Petworth	SS/RCS et al	
	Manhood End		
<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	Inholmes Wood	NJHS	
	Houghton	R & BC	In woods.
	Selsey	R & BC	In marsh.
<i>Carex disticha</i>	Burton Pond	PM	Northernmost Sussex record.
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Sullington	R & BC	
	Warren		
	Amberley Mount	R & BC	
	Burpham	FA	
<i>Ceratochloa cathartica</i>	Worthing	R & BC	
<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Lurgashall	TCGR/FA	Village green.
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Chichester	JW	Alien from tropical America -
	Shoreham	R & BC	both sites in pavement cracks.
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	Iping	AGK	
<i>Festuca filiformis</i>	Midhurst Common	TCGR	
<i>Fumaria vaillantii</i>	Worthing	RF	Conf. Dr M.G.Daker.
<i>Galium uliginosum</i>	Nr Burton Pond	PM	4th post-'88 record.
<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	Beeding	R & BC	
	Arundel Park	FA/FPP	
	Bottom		
	Amberley	MB et al	Re-appeared after ditch-clearance.
<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Lordington Wood	NJHS	
<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	Beeding Brooks	R & BC	
<i>Lemna minuta</i>	Chichester Canal	RCS	Abundant.
<i>Myosurus minimus</i>	Amberley	DTS/FPP	

RECORDS 1995 - VC13 - continued:-

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>	Shoreham	R & BC	Wolley-Dod's Erringham Farm site?
<i>Orobanche elatior</i>	Burpham	SP/FPP/FA	c. 20 spikes.
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	South Harting	FA/SBRS	
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i> = <i>P. australe</i>	Amberley Castle	PS	Det. R.H.Roberts - 2nd VC record. (1st record - Arundel Castle 1837 - see <u>Sussex Plant Atlas</u> p.35).
	Pulborough	BB	In churchyard. Det. R.J.Cooke.
<i>Polypogon viridis</i>	Chichester	HE	
<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>	West Wittering	PS	Det. J.R.Akeroyd. 1st VC record. 3 mature plants & 12 seedlings, with <u><i>P. oxyspermum</i></u> & <u><i>P. aviculare</i></u> .
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Chichester	RCS	
	Canal North Stoke	MB/PAH/AGK/C.D.Preston/Jane Croft	
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	Midhurst Common	Many observers	Over 700 flowering spikes.
<i>Ranunculus hederaceus</i>	Coldwaltham	R & BC	Marshy ground.
<i>R. parviflorus</i>	Itchenor	NJHS	
	Warningcamp	R & BC	'Huge numbers'.
<i>Rorippa amphibia</i>	Watersfield	FA	
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Beeding Brooks	R & BC	2 sites.
	Ferring	"	
	Worthing	"	
	Newhaven	"	Tide Mills.
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Between N & S Mundham	MS	
<i>Scilla siberica</i>	Beeding Hill	JP	
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Petworth	RCS/SS	On walls.
<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>	Yapton	DMD	Recorded '93, det. Feb '96 by J.M.Mullin. 1st VC record. Alien apparently spreading.
	Beeding	R & BC	Recorded March '95. Det. E.J.Clement. 2nd VC record.
	Washington roundabout	NJHS	Recorded Oct. '95. Det. E.J.Clement. 3rd VC record.
<i>Setaria pumila</i>	Hotham Park, Bognor	HH/JW	

RECORDS 1995 - VC13 - continued:-

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
Symphytum orientale	Highdown Hill	SP	
Teesdalia nudicaulis	Easebourne nr Benbow Pond	FA/AGK	
Thesium humifusum	Amberley	HH/SS/ DC	Dry dew pond.
Tolypella prolifer	N. Stoke Farm	MB/PAH/ AGK/ C.D.Preston et al	Last seen here over 10 years ago.
Typha x glauca	Chichester Canal	RCS	
Wolffia arrhiza	Chichester Canal	JC/MH	1st record for several years.

Compiled by Mary Briggs.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

AGH	Arthur Hoare	HH	Hilda Horder	PD	Pat Donovan
AGK	Alan Knapp	HP	Helen Proctor	PM	Paul Maurice
AS	Tony Spiers	JC	Jean Clunes	PS	Paul Stanley
AWJ	Wilberforce Jones	JM	John Manning	PW	Phyl White
BB	B.Bennatt	JO	John Oxonford	RB	R.Burton
DB	David Beven	JP	John Patmore	RC	Rob Cooke
DC	David Curry	JW	Judy Wilson	RCS	Rod Stern
DCL	David Lang	LBB	Breda Burt	RF	Rene Folkerd
DE	David Earl	MB	Mary Briggs	RN	Rachel Nicholson
DMD	D.M.Donovan	MH	Mary Harrison	RP	Robert Pile
DTS	David Streeter	ML	Monty Larkin	RR	Rob Randell
ER	Elizabeth Rich	MS	Mike Shaw	SC	Simon Curson
FA	Frances Abraham	MT	Matthew Thomas	SP	Sarah Patton
FPP	Frank Penfold	NJHS	Nick Sturt	SS	Sylvia Simkin
HE	Hilary Englefield	PAH	Paul Harmes	TCGR	Tim Rich

NATIVE BLACK POPLAR *Populus nigra betulifolia* IN SUSSEX.

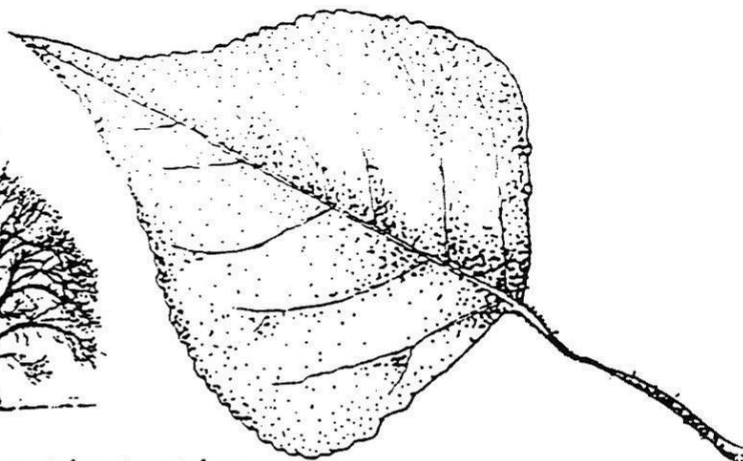
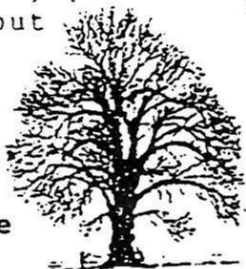
At a meeting at the Linnean Society which Frances Abraham and I attended on 9th December 1993 it was resolved to set up a scheme for the conservation of this rare tree. We undertook to bring together a Working Party in Sussex, to include representatives of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, SBRS/BSBI/Plantlife, the County Councils, and the Royal Botanic Gardens (Wakehurst). A first meeting was held at Woods Mill on 24th February 1994 at which it was agreed to inspect all known specimens, to seek out and verify reports of others, to take measurements and photographs, and to consider plans for protection and propagation. Subsequently RBG Wakehurst agreed to propagate up to 1000 cuttings from verified Sussex stock and hold them for 10 years.

In all this we have relied on advice from, and identification by, Edgar Milne-Redhead, who has campaigned for many years for the conservation of this tree. We send him samples, photographs, measurements, and other data and accept his decision before inclusion on our Sussex register, with notification to the Biological Records Centre. Leading parts in the national campaign have been taken by John White of the Forestry Authority and Jonathan Spencer of English Nature.

Identification presents problems, mainly owing to the multiplicity of hybrids and cultivars. We are concerned with the Atlantic subspecies *P.n.betulifolia*, though the type *P.n.nigra* of central Europe also occurs and is difficult to distinguish. *P.nigra* is dioecious but the hybrids are always monoecious (male or female).

Characters to look for include a deeply-fissured and bossed trunk, downward-arching branches, and leaf-margins with rounded (not hooked) teeth. Other features, such as pubescence and glands, are more problematical. Male catkins are red, produced in late March; females are lime-green, followed in June by very downy seeds. Henry suggested that the number of anthers might be diagnostic for the subspecies.

To date we have accepted less than 30 specimens in v.c.13/14. Males greatly predominate nationally, but Sussex is notable for the high proportion of females. It is too early to circulate a definitive list, but members can see a fine example by Sheffield Bridge TQ407237. We are



hoping that a programme of genetic testing by the Royal Botanic Gardens will be available within a few years. In the meantime it is suggested that the random transplanting of cuttings is undesirable, for the following reasons:

1. the possible uncertainty of the stock
2. the risk of female scions being fertilized by hybrids
3. the uncertainty of recording
4. the possible choice of unsuitable locations.

Within a few years a sufficient quantity of rooted and well-grown cuttings of known provenance will be available from Wakehurst. The Sussex Wildlife Trust intends to select suitable sites in river-valleys, well-spaced over the county, and to arrange for their planting, recording, protection, and monitoring.

Frank Penfold.

SBRS Field Meetings in 1995 - W.Sussex

First of all a correction to the description of our 1994 meetings - the Butterfly orchids found in Rewell Wood were *Platanthera chlorantha* (Lesser butterfly orchid), not *P. bifolia*. Nick Sturt led our first meeting which started with a survey of two areas in Inholmes Wood where finds included *Calamagrostis epigejos* and one very tall *Ophrys insectifera* (Fly orchid). In the afternoon we moved on to Lordington Copse which has very large colonies of *Helleborus viridis* (Green hellebore), *Orchis mascula* (Early purple orchid) and *Polygonatum multiflorum* (Solomon's seal). Large numbers of *Polygonatum multiflorum* were also a feature of Frances Abraham's meeting at Harting Down where we also saw some fine examples of *Tilia platyphyllos* (Large-leaved lime) not far above Harting village. In the afternoon Frances showed us a road bank about 10m on the Sussex side of the border with Hampshire with many *Paris quadrifolia* (Herb paris) and, nearby, what could perhaps be native examples of the widely introduced Lime, *Tilia x vulgaris*. Our two evening meetings at Pulborough Brooks and Petworth were both well attended and, luckily, on beautiful sunny evenings. The former is a regular feature of our calendar and it was interesting that the effect of the unusual spring weather was obvious in that the relative abundance of the spring annuals was very different from other years with less bare sand, mainly due to the presence of large areas of *Sagina procumbens* (Procumbent pearlwort). *Potentilla argentea* (Silver cinquefoil) still thrives near the visitor centre. In Petworth Rod Stern introduced a number of interesting *Hieracia* (Hawkweed) species and *Sedum dasyphyllum* was found on the walls of the Park. Our meeting at Balcombe produced a number of new records for TQ33, including *Kickxia elatine* (Sharp-leaved fluellen), the first recent *Kickxia* record for that area, and *Valerianella dentata* (Narrow-fruited cornsalad) in a Maize field. The afternoon was spent at High Beeches where, apart from having an excellent tea, we saw several patches of *Wahlenbergia hederacea* (Ivy-leaved bellflower) and a beautiful patch of *Anagallis tenella* (Bog pimpernel), the latter on a bank in the car park. *Osmunda regalis* (Royal fern) is also widely naturalised there. Despite coming at the end of the long, hot summer, the meeting at Bines Green produced a number of interesting finds, including *Epilobium palustre* (Marsh willowherb), a big colony of *Silene silaus* (Pepper saxifrage) and the remains of some huge plants of a hybrid orchid, almost certainly *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* x *praetermissa* = *D. x grandis*. We will hopefully be able to confirm the latter find during our evening meeting at Bines Green this year. The year in W. Sussex finished with a very enjoyable day looking at roses near Henfield and then on the Downs just E. of Edburton. Although the number of species we found was relatively small everyone gained very useful experience at identifying roses using the BSBI Rose Handbook, which can be thoroughly recommended. We will almost certainly repeat the exercise at a field meeting in the future. So, if you know of an area with a good variety of rose species, please let Pat or me know.

Alan Knapp