SUSSEX BOTANICAL RECORDING SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 14 February 1984

Hon. Sec./Treas. Mrs. K. W. Amoore
18 West View Court, Steyne Road
Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1EU.

Dear Member,

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, 17th March 1984 at 2.30 p.m. in the Woodmancote Parish Hall (TQ231149). The business will include the adoption of the accounts, the fixing of the subscription for 1985, and the election of Officers and Committee for 1984/5. Our rules require that all Officers and Committee members retire annually, but as there is no restriction on length of service, they all are eligible for re-election if nominated. Your present Officers and Committee are:- Chairman Mr. T. Oaten; Secretary/Treasurer Mrs. K. Amoore; Field Meeting Conveners, East Sussex Mr. A. Hoare; West Sussex Mr. R. Stern; and Miss Barter and Mrs. Burt. All present Members are willing to stand, but Mrs. Burt has been appointed B.S.B.I. Recorder for East Sussex and will therefore be on the Committee ex officio (together with the West Sussex Recorder, Mrs. Briggs). This creates a vacancy on the Committee. Nominations, with the nominee's consent, must reach me before the day of the A.G.M.

After the business, Mr. R. M. Burton will speak on the Flora of the London Area. Mr. Burton is the author of a book with the same title, and he tells me that, although he is not allowed to sell individual copies at a discount, he can let the Society have copies at the trade price of £11.00 (published price £16.50). The Society may then sell them to Members at cost price plus expenses. If any Member would like to order a copy on these terms, please let me know immediately on receipt of this letter, as Mr. Burton must know in good time.

Numbering Newsletters. I have been asked to number the Newsletters, retrospectively if possible. You will see that this one is Number 14. If you wish to number those in your file, Number 1 is that sent to Members of the Flora Society after the inaugural meeting of this Society dated October 20th. 1979, thereafter there have been three per year, (January, March and September) so that January 1980 is No. 2.

Subscriptions for 1984 are now due. They may be sent to me (no receipts will be given) or I will collect them at the A.G.M. as usual. Still £2 for a single Member, £3 for two at one address.

The Programme of Field Meetings for 1984 is on the back of the letter.

A report by the B.S.B.I. Recorders who look after our Atlas records is included with this letter.

Yours faithfully,

K.W. Amoore

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PROGRAMME OF FIELD MEETINGS 1984

Date & Leader	Place & Purpose	Meeting Place
May 9 Mrs. B. Burt	Kent/Sussex border, to look for sites of Cardamine bulbifera	S. of Hawkhurst Moor W. of crossroads on A229 (TQ759282)
May 20 Mr. R. Stern	Highbrook Estate Woodlands recording and woodland survey practice	West Hoathly Church (TQ 364325)
June 3 Mr. A. Hoare	Worthway, East Grinstead. Botanical Survey	East Grinstead Railway Station (TQ 388382)
June 24 Mr. R. Stern	Ashdown House. Recording in school grounds	By school, at end of private drive from B2110 (TQ 445357)
July 15 Miss A. Griffiths	Eames Farm, Thorney Island (West Sussex County Council)	Road to Thorney Island. Park by sewage works (SU 757049)
July 28 Mr. H. Matcham	Halnaker Chalk Pit and Tangmere Airfield	Layby on A285 (SU920088)
August 8 Mr. T. Rich	Ponds at Severals	Car Park opposite Shamrock Inn, Bepton (SU871205)
August 19 Miss G. Barter	Pevensey Levels. Botanical Survey of new Sussex Trust Reserve	On old road near A259 S. W. of Middle Bridge (TQ666067)
September 8 Mr. R. Stern	Pheasant Copse (Leconsfield Estate)	Car Park off A283 at N. end of Petworth Park (SU966238)
October 7	Ashdown Forest to look for Beech Fern. Possibly revisit Worth Forest after lunch. (Joint with Surrey Flora Committee)	Entry point W. of A22 (TQ420337)

ALL MEETINGS START AT 10.45 a.m. - BRING PICNIC LUNCH

Extra

August 4th — Recording at the new S.T.N.C. Reserve at Malling Down. — Layby on Lewes Ringmer Road, S. side, (B.2198) (TQ435115)

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NOTES FROM THE RECORDERS, February 1984 (enclosure to Newsletter No. 14)

Following the sad death of Roger Minor in 1983, the B.S.B.I. has appointed Mrs. Breda Burt as Recorder for East Sussex (VC14). Breda has been associated with plant recording in Sussex since the start of the Atlas Survey (and before), and is well known to most S.B.R.S. Members, she has been on the Committee for two years. East Sussex records should now be sent to Breda, those for central Sussex can be sent to either Recorder, as they will be in close liaison, and will pass records across the boundry as appropriate.

All the records, and a few amendments, which have been sent in as additional to the Plant Atlas since publication in 1980 (first edited and entered into the Atlas by Mary Briggs) have now been collected into tetrad order and typed by Kate Cosway. It has been a mammoth task, as you will see. We hope to make copies of these lists available to Members at cost price (arrangements to be announced at the A.G.M. on March 17th).

At the November Get-together, M.B. reported (rather speedily) on some 50+ records of special interest. It occurs to your Recorders that a repeat of these, with the new specials from 1984, with slide illustrations of as many plants as possible could be of interest to Members (perhaps at the 1984 Get-together, if held). The Dipsacus pilosus found by Mr. G.J. Bailey at Darwell Wood, Netherfield is the one 1983 record which qualifies for publication in Watsonia as a new VC record, and Breda will send this in for East Sussex.

For some species a change in distribution is very marked, and we plan to produce post 1980 maps for a selection of these species. During 1984 could you please keep a special look out for, and send in details (i.e. grid reference and sufficient habitat description to enable your Recorders to account for its presence in the locality) of the following plants:-

1. Brachypodium pinnatum. Dr. Francis Rose was unable to find this grass in 1983 in a number of Atlas "dotted" tetrads. Is it dramatically decreasing? Specimens would be welcome.

2. Filago vulgaris (germanica). Of the 27 dots in the Atlas we now know this plant from only three localities (Heyshot, Washington and Playden) with two additional sites (Crabtree, last seen 1965 and Halnaker, 1983). Caution: possible confusion with English name -- in some books "Common Cudweed" is used for Gnaphalium uliginosum.

3. Ranunculus aquitilis/peltatus. Your Recorders consider that R. peltatus is the common species of these two in Sussex. Again there may be confusion in names, as older floras have used various names (including R. aquitilis ssp. peltatus) and it does seem that recorders have differed as to which of the two names they have given to the same plant. In flower or fruit these species should not present problems. R. aquitilis fruit peduncle shorter that petiole of the opposed laminate leaf, and petals less than 10mm., nectar pits circular. R. peltatushas larger flowers, fruit peducle longer than the petiole of the opposed laminate leaf, petals more than 10mm., nectar pits pyriform. Comments welcome, please.

Next year we hope to publish some up-dated maps including all records for the following species, for which our maps now show significantly altered distribution patterns:-

cont'd overleaf...

Ophioglossum vulgatum, Asplenium adiatum-nigrum, Phyllitis scolopendruim, Dryopteris aemula, Ranunculus auricomus, R. bulbosa, Lythrum portula, Symphytum orientale, Ruscus aculeatus, Epipactis purpurata, Spiranthes spiralis.

Also possibly of some species which at present have no maps (as there were few 1980 localities), but which now have additional records, e.g. Trifolium suffocatum, Astragalus glycophyllos, Digitaria sanguinalis. If you have additional records of these species which you have not already sent in they will be welcome, thank you.

Those Members who joined the Fungus Foray at Ebernow may be interested to hear that the total fungi species identified was 380, a record for a days foray?

Happy hunting in 1984,

M. B. and L. B. B.

RECORDS FOR ATLAS UPDATING

For our new Members (and as a reminder to others) we give below notes on how to send in records for up-dating the Atlas.

1. Your name and address
2. For in-filling dots (i.e. for species common and widespread in the Atlas maps) tetrad numbers only required
3. For less common species, and more unusual records
   - A. Less than 7 dots already published in the Vice County
   - B. Lone dots, i.e. away from the general distribution of the species as published.
   - C. No map in Atlas because of rarity in Sussex please send
     - (i) name of locality and six figure map reference
     - (ii) habitat description and supporting information
     - (iii) date found

For plants which are rare or difficult to identify, a second opinion, if possible, is very helpful.

When sending LISTS of plants please send these in Atlas sequence, with page number in Atlas (this greatly speeds up the task of the Atlas dotter).

From 1984:

East Sussex records to:-
Mrs. Breda Burt, Boonsfield Farm, Rye, Playden, East Sussex, TN31 7QA.

West Sussex records to:-
Mrs. Mary Briggs, White Cottage, Slinfold, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 7RG.

(Records from Central Sussex to either).

M. B. and L. B. B.

February 1984