SUSSEX BOTANICAL RECORDING SOCIETY

Newsletter January 1996.

A Happy New Year to you all and good hunting in 1996! We look forward to hearing of your exciting new finds, and refinds, as this new year unfolds.

In the May Newsletter your Chairman mentioned that he and Vanessa can see two of the possible Sussex Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) from their house. From my window, looking down into the River Arun at summer low tide, I can clearly spot the Potamogeton perfoliatus in the water below ....

Arum italicum ssp. neglectum. Many thanks to those West Sussex recorders who, responding to my request at the autumn meeting, searched in November for plants of the rare Lords-and-Ladies. 51 tetrad dots for this species were published in the Sussex Plant Atlas (some we know refer to records in the 1950s, from localities since destroyed), but before this survey I had details of only six currently known sites. However during November, before the leaves of A. maculatum (the common sp.) were above ground, clumps of Arum leaves were reported from 52 West Sussex colonies in 34 tetrads. These recent sightings are particularly valuable and Ron Clough is preparing a distribution map of the updated records for the SBRS spring meeting.

Some very sad news - George Forster died on 18th January. I know all the members of the Society will wish us to extend to Cynthia our deepest sympathy.

Mary Briggs
President.

Although recording and advice on botanical conservation are our main activities, we have sometimes carried out practical conservation work, such as a limited amount of scrub and ditch clearance. There are other bodies in Sussex who can generally do this sort of work more effectively than we can ever hope to do, and it is up to us to draw the attention of organisations such as the Sussex Wildlife Trust, the County and District Councils, the Forestry Commission and the National Trust to jobs which need doing. I would like to ask members who know of requirements for such conservation work to inform me or a member of the Committee. Occasionally it may be appropriate for us to do a small job, perhaps one which requires particular botanical knowledge, using a few of our own members, and we may ask for volunteers in the locality concerned.

We have organised what I believe is a varied and interesting programme of excursions this year and I hope as many members as possible will be able to join in these. The Committee is always pleased to receive suggestions for places to visit and for volunteers to lead excursions.

I hope you all have a very successful botanical year.

Rod Stern
Chairman

Field Meetings 1995
East Sussex

An SSSI, consisting of three unimproved meadows at St. Dunstan's Farm near Punnett's Town, was the venue of the first East Sussex meeting and a very rewarding day it proved. A total of 181 species was recorded, including a new site for *Phyteuma spicatum* and no less than 14 sedges. Among these were *Carex pulicaris*, Flea Sedge, which has few records in Sussex and the rare *C. viridula s.s. brachyrryncha (C.lepidocarpa)*, Long-stalked Yellow Sedge. After the meeting the owner, Mr David Hobden, commented "What a friendly, keen and knowledgeable bunch you all are."

The joint meeting with Kent in June at Pippingford Park enabled members of the Kent Field Club to explore acid heathland, a habitat that is rare in their county. By dividing into groups and recording in 1km squares more ground was covered both for the Ashdown Forest Flora project and for the Park. For the latter, 39 species were added to the Park list, making a grand total of 384. *Scutellaria x hybrida* (Hybrid Scullcap) was recorded and *Carex boenninghausiana*, the hybrid between *C. remota* and *C. paniculata* (previously recorded in nearby Newbridge bog in the 1970s but not re-found).

On a very hot (85°), cloudless day in July a return visit was made to the Trust reserve on Pevensey Levels. There were plenty of plants in the ditches including *Potamogeton acutifolius* & *P. lucens* but the surrounding fields were somewhat over-grazed. In the afternoon on the English Nature reserve several plants of *Sium latifolium* were seen and the unusual sight of *Ranunculus circinatus* growing on mud.

In late September, members met at Hentield to try out the new Roses handbook. Most of the plants along the old railway turned out to be *Rosa canina* but with the aid of the clear keys one specimen was of the the group *Pubescente*. *Rosa tomentosa* & *R. arvensis* were the only other species found but in the afternoon on the Downs near Fulking nearly all the plants examined were *R. micrantha*.

SBRS Field Meetings 1996

Please note that all those taking part in SBRS field meetings do so at their own risk.

Saturday, April 27th Frances Abraham	Survey of sandy areas E of Easebourne. Meet in car park next to Benbow Pond, just N of A272 (SU913922).
Thursday, May 16th Alan Knapp **Evening meeting (18:30 start)**	Survey of sandy areas near visitor centre, Pulborough Brooks RSPB Reserve. Meet in reserve car park, entrance on W side of A283 at TQ062165. NB - this is a detailed survey using quadrats and is an ideal opportunity to learn more about identifying spring annuals.
Saturday, May 18th Rachel Nicholson	Survey of ancient countryside in the Brightling area. Meet on Brightling - Robertsbridge road, just E of where aerial ropeway crosses at TQ688214.
Saturday, June 1st Eric Phelp	Joint meeting with Kent Field Club at Dungeness. Meet at TR088169 near the old lighthouse. Army permission is being sought to visit the Lydd Ranges in the afternoon.
Tuesday, June 11th Alan Knapp **Evening meeting (18:30 start)**	Survey of Bines Green Common. To record spring/summer species missed in survey in 1995. Meet in lay-by at W side of B2135, just N of bridge over R.Adur (TQ190176).
Sunday, June 16th Arthur Hoare	Survey of St. Leonards Forest. Meet in car park to N of minor road at S side of the Forest (TQ207298).
Saturday, June 22nd Paul Maurice	Survey of Ashburnham Place. Park near the church in Ashburnham Place (TQ688146). Please use the entrance off the B2204 at TQ695142.
Sunday, July 7th Tim Rich	Survey in Milland/Redford area, meet in NT car park (SU869262). Note - we may well move on from there.
Saturday, July 13th Pat Donovan	Survey of grounds of Buxted Park (now a hotel). Deer park with small SSSI. Park near St. Margaret's church, entrance off A272 at TQ487235.
Sunday, Aug. 4th Ron Clough	Survey of Henfield Brooks. meet in small car park where old railway meets West End Lane, W of Henfield (TQ206162).
Saturday, Aug. 17th Nick Sturt	Survey in far NW of Sussex . Meet at side of lane S of Milland by the chapel at SU846255. We will move on to NW of the A3. If you would prefer to go straight there phone Nick Sturt or Alan Knapp in early August.
Saturday, Sept. 7th Paul Harmes	Cuckmere, meeting to observe and record a very rich area of E. Sussex. Meet in Exceat car park , S side of A259 opposite visitor centre (TV519994).

Note: Meetings all start at **10:45** except the evening meetings on May 16th and June 11th, see times above.

If you have any queries please contact Pat Donovan (E.Sussex meetings) or Alan Knapp (W.Sussex meetings).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A.G.M. at Staplefield Village Hall - **2nd March, 1996 at 2.00 p.m.** There will be an opportunity for members to show their slides after the meeting. Tea and biscuits will be served at the end of the meeting.

Autumn Get-Together also at Staplefield Village Hall - **9th November 1996 at 10.00 a.m.** the Speaker will be Mr Rob Cook who will talk on ferns. Soup and potatoes in their jackets will be available for lunch as usual followed by tea and cakes later in the afternoon.

If you have any nominations for Committee Members please let me have them by **17th February 1996.**

Please remember that the subscription is due at the beginning of March. If you are attending the A.G.M. Trevor Lording, Treasurer, will be available to take it. The subscription will be the same as last year i.e. £3.00 per person or £4.50 for two at one address. If you are unable to attend the A.G.M. please send your cheque, made payable to SBRS either to Trevor Lording: 17 Hill Rise, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2DH or to Louise Matcham: 21 Temple Bar, Strettington, Chichester, PO18 OLB.

Louise Matcham
Hon. Secretary